

# ORCHIDS IN NEW ZEALAND



MARCH/APRIL 1985

# Beck's . . .



## ORCHID MIXES

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- Stokes Valley:** E. B. Topp, 42 Manuka Street. Phone: 638-187
- Wanganui:** R. A. Spittal, 13 Kells St., Aramoho. Phone: 36-528

# ORCHIDS IN NEW ZEALAND

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### Cover Photo:

Cym. Thurso 'Cooksbridge' AM/RHS 1983. A magnificent modern 13cm green tetraploid from the crossing of Miretta 'Cherub' 4N x York Meredith 'Cooksbridge' from McBeans Orchids Ltd., of England.

Correct caption for January/February issue Cover Photo:

Oda. St. Clements 'Lyoth Delight' PC/RHS 1983. An attractive "Coconut Ice" coloured flower from the crossing of Odm. Crutardo x Oda. Elpheon from the Charlesworth collection. (A division of McBeans Orchids Ltd., of England).

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR



The Editor  
Orchids in New Zealand

Our congratulations to Ron Roy for Part I of the series on Paph. Species. Well researched and informative (colour pictures as well) — but Oh those words! I'm lost already. "Revolute", "Reticulated", "Confluent" are not easy ones for "Mr and Mrs Ordinary" Society Member. Can I suggest that a glossary of these terms be published in our magazine to give us all a ready reference "at home".

ANTHONY

### REPLY

*Thank you for drawing my attention to this botanical terminology. We get so used to seeing these words in print that the meanings become second nature. However, there is no reason at all why magazine space cannot be allocated in future issues for the explaining of orchidaceous terms. I would also recommend to readers the American Orchid Society's handbook called "An Orchidists Glossary". This excellent little booklet can be obtained from the American Orchid Society Inc., Botanical Museum of Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 02138, U.S.A.*

*Some years ago the cost was US\$3.00. New Zealand Societies could, if interested, perhaps purchase these in bulk.*

Editor

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## REVIVAL

by Gwen of Warkworth

I was visiting a friend last October and was given three withered cattleya pseudo bulbs. Each piece was from the same plant which had originally come from Singapore. The bulbs were leafless, somewhat dehydrated and areas of decay were evident.

I took them to my home in Warkworth and carefully cut out the rotten areas with a meths sterilised razor blade. The wounds were dressed with a mixture of sulphur and captan and the three pieces (for that's all you could call them now) were placed on damp sphagnum moss in a clear plastic bag which was blown up and hung under a bench in my glasshouse.

After about six weeks I had a sneaky look, and, to my surprise there were two little swollen eyes looking at me, it was incredible to think that those withered pieces would ever support or grow new shoots. I retied the bag and replaced it under the bench for a further three weeks. By this time the shoots had grown to about 1-2cm in length and tiny rootlets were appearing beneath the eyes. It was now time to remove them to a new home — I had gone to so much trouble that to lose them now would be heart-breaking. There were some nice slabs of ponga in my shed and I took three suitable pieces and soaked them in Maldison to kill any bugs.

Once again sphagnum moss was used as a bed and the plantlets were anchored with lengths of shredded saron shade cloth. A strange thing about these bulbs to my way of thinking was that the shoots developed from the tops and sides of the bulbs, not like cymbidiums, which seem to come from the bottom.

By now — January 1985 — the leaves are about 4cm long, mauvy-green in colour, very shiny and look super — small roots are growing through and over the sphagnum moss into the ponga fibres. I find that the moss dries rather quickly after watering so it pays to put the ponga slabs out of the direct sun during the hot summer weather. Fertilizer should be very weak as the roots are really not developed enough to take up masses of nutrient.

I hope that the above lines may encourage other people to have a go at reviving sad looking plants; it is surprising what you can do when you try.

## *2nd New Zealand International Orchid Conference 1985*

In our last edition we promised something about Wellington orchid growers. Here it is:

### **ORCHID PERSONALITIES — WELLINGTON**

The Wellington area is fortunate in that there are many orchid growers, both those who have been involved in this interest for many years, and those who have more recently caught the 'orchid bug'.

While there are a number of growers who have extensive collections of cymbidiums, the region is perhaps fortunate, and, in many ways, unique in New Zealand, with the number of growers who have extensive collections of orchids of 'other genera'; and especially species. Some of these collections are very well established, providing a great insight into the fascinating diversity of the orchid family.

This diversity in orchid growing interests is always evident at the shows and displays organised in the region. The local societies are lucky in that there are many growers who have a very wide and deep knowledge of their interest, and who freely make this experience available to new growers.

Some of the local growers and nurseries are listed below. Obviously only a limited number can be included.

#### **BLACK ORCHIDS LIMITED**

Fairfield Road, Levin

Kath Black

One of, if not the oldest, orchid nursery in the area. Much of its basic stock is derived from material sent to this country from the United Kingdom during the Second World War, and which was not returned because it grew so well here. An extensive nursery selling plants, but which also exports flowers (mainly paphiopedilums and

cymbidiums). In addition to these genera, also supplies a number of cooler growing hybrids in the odontoglossum alliance for the local enthusiasts. The nursery is located at Levin, north of Wellington city, an attractive one and a half hours drive.

#### **NORM PORTER**

Cymbidium Orchid Specialist,  
23 Parata Street, Waikanae

Norm Porter in recent years has run this nursery on a full time basis, after being established as a part-time business. It now is a major supplier of cymbidiums, not only to the south of the North Island, but also throughout the country. In addition to a full range of both standard and miniature cymbidium seedlings and mericlones, a number of cooler growing genera are supplied, zygopetalums, odontoglossums, etc.

Norm has an extensive cymbidium breeding programme. This nursery is located north of Wellington, along the Golden Coast, involving a car run of about one hour.

#### **KEVIN AND LYN SHERLOCK**

Aitken Road, Otaki

Originally living in Wellington, they now run a small nursery north of Otaki. They grow a wide range of genera, being recognised for the very high quality of their plants.

#### **HEC AND DOROTHY HAZELWOOD**

11 Epiha Street, Paraparaumu

These world travellers have been growing orchids of many genera from all countries for many years. Not only do they specialise in Australian natives but have a massive collection of all manner

of plants brought into this country from their travels. An interesting nursery catering particularly for the collector of 'something different at the right price', so hard to obtain in our inflationary world.

#### **RUSS WILKINS**

4 Rewa Street, Raumati Beach

Formerly President of the Golden Coast Orchid Society, Russ has a large collection of well grown cymbidiums with a smaller complement of odonts, miltonias, etc. Russ is Deputy Registrar of the N.Z. Orchid Council's judging panel and heavily involved with this commitment at present.

#### **AVALON ORCHIDS**

102 Main Road, Paraparaumu

Lorna Ferretti

Lorna originally established this nursery in Lower Hutt, moving recently to Paraparaumu. A full range of both standard and miniature cymbidiums are produced, although mainly miniature type cymbidiums.

#### **VENNA AND KEN PARNELL**

Rosetta Road, Raumati Beach

Hobbyists and excellent growers of paphs and other genera in a compact, well planned and set up orchid house, built onto their house which backs onto the Raumati Beach looking right onto Kapiti Island. Anyone who claims sea sprays are not conducive to orchid growing could be surprised with the Parnell's progeny.

#### **DOUG AND JOYCE BURGESS**

Presentation Orchids, Paraparaumu

Doug is President of the Golden Coast Orchid Society, a member of the N.Z. Orchid Council's Judging Panel and a polished speaker on orchids. He has a complete compact set-up, high on the hill overlooking Raumati and South Paraparaumu and produces high quality plants of all genera. Doug is Programme Convenor for the 1985 Conference.

#### **DOUG AND MARGE PATCHETT**

Bede Grove, Tawa

Doug and Marge grow many orchid genera as hobbyists with a showing of flowers all through the year. Doug is Convenor of the Publicity Committee for the 1985 Conference and Treasurer of the Golden Coast Orchid Society.

#### **FRANK AND JOYCE ASKIN**

Wellington

Amateur growers, Frank and Joyce have been growing orchids for many years. Frank was responsible for some of the early breeding of yellow cymbidiums, in fact was probably one of the first persons to breed and flask orchids locally. Now a high quality collection of paphiopedilums, miltonias and odontoglossum alliance species and hybrids is maintained.

Frank was a prime mover behind the establishment of the Wellington Orchid Society, being its first President. He is one of the most knowledgeable orchid growers in the country, and has produced a number of award winning plants.

#### **DOT AND ROGER COOPER**

Lower Hutt

Dot and Roger have been orchid growers for many years, establishing a wide collection of both species and hybrid orchids, although especially interested in species. President of the Wellington Orchid Society Inc., Roger has also served on the Orchid Council of New Zealand. Along with two other growers, the late Tom Grant-Taylor and Alan Beu, he was responsible for the establishment of the Journal of the Wellington Society, laying the foundation for its present success.

Dot also has an intense interest in orchids, currently serving on the Orchid Council, taking Rogers place. She has written an authoritative book on native orchids, and was the founder (and organiser) of the Native Orchid Study Group, which now has over 100 members.

## **MABUHAY ORCHIDS**

**Naenae**

**Janet Mendoza**

Janet has a wide collection of many genera which she often maintains "look after themselves". Her phenomenal memory is an asset to the different Societies she belongs to and her experience on the N.Z. Orchid Council's judging panel is shared with her many associates.

## **HANK WORTMAN**

**Lower Hutt**

Hank produces beautiful phalaenopsis, paphiopedilums and other genera whose magnificent condition he attributes to a generous use of natural manures.

## **LEW WYATT**

**Lower Hutt**

Lew has been involved in the local societies for a number of years as an amateur grower. He has a very large collection of mixed genera, with emphasis on the odontoglossum alliance. A booklet produced by the Wellington Society on odontoglossums was written by Lew. He is the Show Manager for the 1985 International Conference.

## **JOHN AND VALERIE ADDISON**

**Upper Hutt**

John and Valerie have an enthusiasm for orchid growing which would be hard to match. John is Secretary of the 1985 Conference Committee, as well as being heavily involved in the local society. They have a modest collection of mixed genera, although Val would like more cymbidiums for her ikebana!

## **DICK REICHENBACH**

**Wellington**

Dick has run a small orchid nursery for many years on a hobby basis, specialising in species from around the world, many of which he has collected "in the field". With many growers having space problems in their glasshouses, he has

more recently specialised in the compact smaller growing species.

## **GORDON SYLVESTER**

**Wainuiomata**

Gordon has a strong interest in the New Zealand native orchids as well as growing species and hybrids from a wide range of genera.

## **LORNA COSNETT**

**Upper Hutt**

Secretary of the Wellington Orchid Society, Lorna has a mixed collection, again from a wide range of genera.

## **SYD PATTON**

**Upper Hutt**

Syd is an established grower, having a particular interest in phalaenopsis and vandas. He is handling the registrations for the 1985 Conference.

## **PHILIP TOMLINSON**

**Wellington**

Editor of the Journal of the Wellington Orchid Society, and Special Publications Editor, he has written the Cymbidium Cultural Booklet published by the Society which has sold over 10,000 copies to date. Having a particular interest in lycastes and oncidiums, he has also written booklets on these genera, which will also be published by the society. A wide range of genera is grown in a very small glasshouse.

## **BERT AND HELEN TOPP**

**Stokes Valley**

Helen and Bert run a small nursery as a retirement activity. (Red Oak Orchids). Specialising mainly in cymbidiums, they also have a number of other genera available — dendrobiums, phalaenopsis, etc. They are both heavily involved in the local orchid societies. Bert is responsible for hospitality including accommodation, tours, etc., for the 1985 Conference.

## **D. PATCHETT**

**Convenor, Publicity Committee**

## ANSWER TO A LAMENT

*A lament by "Anon" in your issue —  
December,  
About Dendrobium Nobile  
not flowering — Remember?  
The answer's quite simple, why were  
they not told  
That from Anzac Day (26 April)  
onwards, remember to hold  
Off watering the plant for say four to six  
weeks,  
Until looking will show you, that's right  
have some peeks  
At the nodules, and when they are  
through,  
Water as usual — they'll bloom well for  
you!*

**Miriam Corban**  
(Auckland Orchid Club)

P.S. Light mistings towards the end of  
the drought period will prevent the  
canes from shrivelling.

314 Great North Road  
Henderson  
Auckland 8



## Cymbidium Culture Notes

*by Gordon Maney, 7 Harrow Place,  
Palmerston North*

### MARCH APRIL

This is a very important time of the year for all Cymbidium Growers because by now most plants should be showing their flower spikes. Apart from the pleasure we get from finding them especially on new seedlings, the majority of our plants still have a long way to go before flowering so for this reason the regular throwing around of slug bait is an absolute must. I use Mesurool.

You must still spray once a month for red spider; interchange your sprays, Kelthane, Omite, Thiodan. Most of the sprays are readily available. A good mask and protective clothing is most important. Always treat sprays, particularly systemics, with the greatest respect.

Dry conditions encourage infestations of spider mite; wetting walks and benches does help to keep them down but that is all it does. When on holiday during January this year, the young plants in my intermediate house got red spider badly and yet this particular house is always watered every day. I simply omitted to spray before I left.

As the spikes are getting longer, make sure you stake them so they can be trained where necessary and try not to move your plants once the spikes have any length to them.

Fix all leaks if there are any, and of course make sure all weed and rubbish is cleaned away from your houses.

Feeding is very important now too, because you need to build strength into your spikes and colour into the blooms. Most commercial growers are using microfeeds, that is soluble Fertilisers with chelated trace elements. As this is becoming more readily available, I feel I can say something about it in this article.

The 212 is used from April, it has an N.P.K. of 22-5-18, the 214 is used from December to March and has an N.P.K. of 16-3-27. If you are using these, it is advisable to add once a month for December, January and February, Epsom Salts, 5ml (1 teaspoon) to 4½ litres of water. Young plants I still throw dried blood onto being careful to thoroughly water before and after broadcasting. Dried blood on small plants in March gives a good boost through the winter months and it will not burn.

Remember always whenever you are feeding, water today, feed tomorrow and then thoroughly water 3 to 5 days later to stop any build up of salts. This usually shows up in the form of black tips on the leaves.



# Getting Started in Orchids

*by Ron and Melville Wells, North Shore Orchid Society*



We have been requested to write an article on the way in which we started to get involved in the growing of Orchids. The starting point was in the mid 1950's and at that time we were living in South West London at Clapham Common.

We were involved in a rather large collection of Bonsai Trees (which at the time of writing are still growing with a friend in Surrey). We were also into another expensive hobby -- Home Movie's. During this period we would up-grade our cameras. As with all hobbies you soon find the limitations of your less expensive equipment. So whenever we traded in for a new camera we hurriedly put a film in to check that things were working O.K. and the location we made for was Kew Gardens. It was approximately 20 minutes car ride from home. As a matter of fact we were there that often that our family called it

One advantage of this small house was cost of heating: a small fan-heater took care of that, and power was fairly cheap in those days. It was not very long before we ran out of room and there was only one way to go and that was to sell the house and move -- we had got the dreaded complaint, orchiditis. We found a very nice smaller house with a large garden at a place called Stoneleigh near Epsom in Surrey. We could see the Derby Race Course from our bedroom window and to top it all still only 25 minutes from Kew Gardens and 30 minutes to Waterloo by train to our place of work. We were out in the

the O.S.G.B. and our monthly meetings were held at the R.H.S. Halls at Westminster on Saturday afternoons. There was never any shortage of speakers, Brian Rittershausen and sister Wilma, David Sander, Clive Halls, who I am sure is the same Clive and Aggie Halls now in Australia. Perhaps someone could verify that.

Another person we spoke to for a long time on one of our Kew visits was George Fuller. Never expecting then that we were to meet him again in New Zealand, we were planning to retire to Devon.

We had some wonderful times during the 1960's and early 1970's. The O.S.G.B. during Spring and Summer, programmed visits to Orchid Nurseries at weekends, Miss Low of Stuart Low was a very charming lady but hated parting with her cattleya's. We were at the nursery when it closed for the last time, in fact we were at all of the sad closures, Charlesworth and David Sander — history now. We did not get hooked on phalaenopsis until 1969; we had an orchid nursery fairly close to us at Fernhill, Horley, Surrey. This was run by a Mr Jeal. He was growing some wonderful cattleya's and had many years of growing in the U.S.A., also he had one house devoted to phalaenopsis. He talked me into trying a couple of plants which were in flower, one was named Silver Cloud, and the other Valle Beauty x Tommy Tucker, both whites — 30 shillings each. We were very successful with these, and from then on I became hooked on phals, which now are my main genera, some 600 plants at all stages. Back to the story, my plant house finally stopped at 8 x 3 metres after adding two 1.5 metre extensions. We made a separate division for phalaenopsis. Main heating was two thermostat fan heaters with a back up of kerosene heaters. We were able to obtain better grades of kero in England than that obtained in N.Z. but still had to watch with bud drop on phals.

Potting mix used was in the main, osmunda fibre or sphagnum moss which was plentiful in boggy areas of woodlands. Osmunda was getting so expensive, particularly the fine grade from Japan, so fir bark started to come in. We were a long time before going over to this media. My friend Jeal was growing his cattleya's and phalaenopsis in chunky Californian Redwood fibre. This was working wonderfully, never seemed to break down. Large bags imported from U.S.A. cost five pounds, we used nothing else for the rest of our time in England. (wish I could obtain it now).

We finally built up a large collection of phal's, mostly from hugo freed U.S.A., Wyld Court Orchids at Newbury, Berks were their U.K. Agent. One thing I meant to have mentioned earlier, was a firm called The Thames Trading Co., at Chiswick, W. London. They sent us a monthly list of orchids from Mexico, Brazil and India. After customers sent in their orders they would send away the bulk orders, but the supplier's sent the plants direct to our homes. There was no quarantine in the U.K. in those days. We were receiving very large clumps of dendrobiums from India at around eleven shillings each. Another source of supply as far as species was concerned was a grower at Finchley, N. London, named Simmonds. He also cultivated Lily of the Valley by the truck load for the London market. The corms apparently came from Germany.

He always had cardboard boxes of bare root species orchids, large clumps of *Odont. grande* and *cycnoches chlorochilon* at ten shillings each.

So we progressed during the 1970's, some of my English collection is on 8mm cine film but sadly not all, as there came a day in January 1974 when my son-in-law phoned and told us to pour ourselves a stiff drink as he and my daughter and two grand children were being processed for emigration to New Zealand. As my daughter was our only child it hit us rather hard, and they finally

left England at the end of May 1974. From then on I seemed to lose interest in our collection. We did so miss the grand daughters and unfortunately I stopped taking film of my plants. Some of my best phals. never were recorded on film.

This went on for a long time and it finally finished with us selling the collection and start programming to come to New Zealand. It was not difficult to sell our orchids; most were taken by the Devon Orchid Society which at the time was newly formed. My collection of Hugo Freed phalaenopsis was taken completely by a man who was starting out on establishing a nursery in Surrey. I later heard that he was called Phalaenopsis Limited. I had two plants of Cattleya Iris, a primary hybrid raised by Sanders, could have sold them dozens of times over. Also in the collection was a magnificent plant of Vanda Suavis Tricolor, which including the pot was 2 metres tall and flowered about every eight months. There is, however, a separate story to this orchid, it was purchased from John Blower who at that time was Manager at Wyld Court Orchids. It was about 45cm tall and had never flowered at the nursery. However, he said we could have this. The only one there for four pounds. We took the plant home and six months later it started to produce a spike. Anyway back to our planning to come to New Zealand. We were taking the Australian Orchid Review in England and seeing an advert by John Hannah we decided to write to him regarding an Orchid Society in New Zealand, as we were planning to settle on the North Shore. He put me in touch with Mrs Blackmore, who wrote us a lovely letter, even offering to quarantine any orchids we sent over. It was too late for that and they would have no doubt been expensive to send. Our collection was finally sold and six months later we received our permit for residence in New Zealand. We had sent most of our furniture, etc., over and finally arrived in New Zealand at the end of September 1975. From then, until the present, will have to be another story.

## Work to the Lunar Calendar

*by Cyril Pritchard, Whakatane*

Many people scoff at the idea that the moon has some influence over planting seeds and doing other garden work to advantage at certain times in the month.

I like fishing and have found that the moon has a great influence on one's success. For instance, crayfish will not move about freely and enter crayfish pots when the moon is full. Flounder also are scarce at these times but on moonless nights a good catch can be expected.

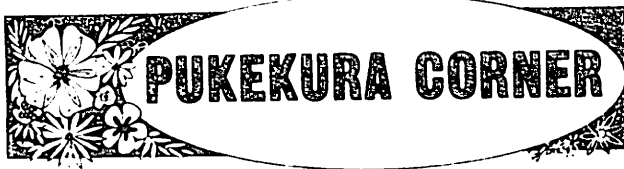
The lunar calendar for gardeners shows optimum time for maintenance, planting root crops, planting leaf crops and planting fruit and seed crops. For dividing and repotting orchids, use the date set down for plants that grow on top of the ground, at the regular repotting time of the year. As a general guide, this is for eight days in the month, starting three days after the new moon.

I have amazing results in getting plants to produce new roots quickly, and more flower spikes particularly on younger plants, using this method. Hard to strike shrubs and carnations produce nearly always 100% with very strong root growth.

The best day for pollinating, if the flower is receptive, is the day of the full moon. I had success in getting a seed pod to set on a Phalaenopsis violacea (a difficult subject) but sold the plant so did not get a chance to see any of the seeds growing. My reduced collection is looked after 'according to the calendar' and all the plants are doing very well.

The Lunar Calendar is available through a number of book shops and also from Allied Farmers Co-op, Tauranga.

I have much enjoyment from my hobby and perhaps some of the above may help others, it certainly works for me.



By George Fuller, N.D.H. [N.Z.],  
Curator Pukekura Park, New Plymouth.

## LEST WE FORGET GEOFF LAIRD

*I had promised myself that in 1985 I would endeavour to concentrate on the more practical aspects of orchid growing in this column but on reflecting on the events in 1984 I am uneasy over the fact that two prominent orchid enthusiasts passed away without due reference to the important part each played in his own way to the promoting of a wider understanding of orchids in this country. The two persons to whom I refer are Geoff Laird of Auckland and Henry Rudolph of Wellington.*

*Geoff Laird was already well known in orchid circles when I first became involved in the 1940's. It was at his proposal that a group of enthusiasts gathered in 1948 to discuss the formation of an orchid society. Thus was founded what is now known as the New Zealand Orchid Society, the oldest organisation in the country devoted solely to orchids.*

*Not surprisingly, Geoff was elected president, a position he held for three terms but additionally he edited a monthly 'Bulletin' which served as a very successful tool for disseminating the eagerly sought-after information on orchid growing in New Zealand. He took every opportunity of passing on experience and information and his expertise in administration was an invaluable aid.*

*On the practical level his knowledge of chemistry and a flair for inventiveness placed him years ahead in the develop-*

*ment of non-fibrous potting mixes and nutrient feeding — factors in everyday use now but highly revolutionary in the 1940's and 50's. Notable amongst his 'inventions' was a vibrating potting bench for granular mixes and an "in-line" nutrient diluter for feeding.*

*Geoff Laird's fine orchid collection on the slopes of Mount Eden was always a show-piece, greatly admired by all who visited and proudly displayed by the owner as a manifestation of the success of his cultural techniques and expertise.*

*The qualities of administrator, educator, editor, inventor and very successful cultivator are seldom combined in one person but Geoff Laird was endowed with all these attributes and exercised them with great enthusiasm to the benefit of all who chose to listen, read or look. We owe much to him for his years of perseverance and consistency. I suppose that the descendants of the pieces of reed-stemmed epidendrum which he gave away would by now, if placed end to end, extend from North Cape to Bluff.*

## HENRY RUDOLPH

*I had not the good fortune to meet Henry Rudolph though his name seems to have been what could be described as a 'household' one among orchid enthusiasts. His great reputation as leader of the 'Henry Rudolph Singers' may have influenced this somewhat but never-the-less he was an orchid grower in his own right and is particularly known for his successes in breeding and seed raising.*

I have to confess little knowledge of what his collection comprised; how he did his seed raising and the extent of his activities and this prompts me to suggest that there is a serious blank in our records, for Henry Rudolph is a pioneer in this field as far as New Zealand is concerned. Somebody should record more details of his activities before it is too late.

My knowledge of Henry is that he was a watchmaker in Wellington to whom I had occasion to write in 1966 concerning the origin of plants which had come into this collection. It transpired that he had received seed from Australia and no doubt other sources, raised seedlings and then dispersed them throughout New Zealand, whether or not by sale I know not. The nature of a few of the plants that are attributed to him indicate that he was quite an astute plantsman and this is an intriguing factor.

There is, for instance a zygopetalum turning up all over New Zealand which, if the original label is intact would read *Z. crinitum* x *Cymb. Guelda*. Henry's reply to an enquiry over origin revealed that the seed had come from a grower in Sydney who was attempting to produce a blue *Cymbidium*!!! The outcome was a rare peculiarity called *apomixis* in which the zygopetalum produced viable seed but it was not carrying any genetical influence from the cymbidium. The 'seedlings' therefore are technically vegetative divisions of the *Z. crinitum* but there is reason to doubt the validity of the naming of the original plant, though it is certainly a lovely blue.

It seems that Henry later did his own hybridising and indeed there is a *Cymbidium* that bears his name *C. Shiraz* x *C. Alexanderi* registered by Ross, 1960, but I don't know if it was of his own hybridising. We do have, however, two plants in the collection from his hand and both are intriguing for different reasons.

In 1963 Graves of the U.S.A. registered a cross between *C. Oiso* and *C.J. Blowers* as *C. Lois Graves*. If my information is correct, by some

incredible coincidence, Henry Rudolph must have made the same cross at about the same time and to add to the fascination, plants of *C. Oiso* can no longer be traced either here or in America. The hybrid *Lois Graves* is a miniature and a good one. We have a plant from each source and the Henry Rudolph seedling is superior. In recognition of its originator, we call it *C. Lois Graves 'Chorister'*.



*Cymb. Oiso* x *Miracle*. Bred by Henry Rudolph.

Our other seedling is also a miniature with *C. Oiso* and *C. Miracle* as the parents but what sets it apart is the fact that although similar to *Lois Graves* it has a unique lip which I can only describe as spatulate (spoon-shaped), unlike any other *Cymbidium* that I have ever seen.

The little I know of Henry Rudolph is tantalising to the point where I feel that someone should research and record his involvement with orchids. Let us not rest with his only epitaph a one line reference in 'Plant Breeding in New Zealand' by Wratt & Smith, to the effect that he was a breeder of *Cymbidiums*. He was surely a man of character and vision with pioneering instincts and there must be a great story waiting to unfold. At time when we ogled at the experts from overseas, perhaps we had their equal in our midst.



# Canadian Hospitality or Orchid Hunting in Canada

by Ros Bickerstaff, 12 Enfield Road, Napier



Nearly two years ago, among my mail, was an aerogramme from Canada. The name on the Sender's Address was unknown to me. Full of curiosity, I opened it and read how a Canadian business man and his wife wanted to visit New Zealand on a pre-retirement holiday, to photograph our New Zealand native orchids in the wild. Bookings had been made for February-March 1983. He had written to the N.Z.O.S., and the Secretary had given him my name and address as well as a few others from other parts of New Zealand.

Naturally I replied, stating that, during the months given, there was a lull in flowering, but they were welcome to come and stay with me during their visit to our Hawke's Bay area. I would show them around and hoped that they would get some worthwhile photos. The offer was accepted.

Well, in due time they arrived. Bert and Phyl Crook — a delightful couple. They had hired a camper-van to make their tour, and had soon dropped into our way of driving on the 'wrong' side of the road. They had lived in England in their early days of married life, so it was no effort for them to relearn old habits. We managed to find a few orchids in flower and showed them much of our countryside with its orchards, vineyards, and farms, as well as going by "beach buggy" out to the gannet sanctuary. When they departed, they told us that if ever we visited America be sure to include them in our itinerary so they could return our hospitality. They lived about half-an-hour's drive from Niagara Falls, and they would like to take us up to the Bruce Peninsula to show us their native orchids, especially the bog-growing *Cypripediums*. The Bruce is one of the few places where these orchids could be seen, as some were becoming quite rare. Of course, we said we would love to see them again, but, at

the moment there seemed to be little hope that we would be able to do this.

Then came a strange set of circumstances. My eldest son, with his wife and family, transferred from Melbourne University to the Washington University, at Seattle. A few weeks later, in early March, an advertisement appeared in our local newspaper asking for billets, for one week, for a group of visitors belonging to Friendship Force International, from Santa Fe and Albuquerque, New Mexico. Having had such a delightful couple from Canada, we decided to offer to billet two of their party. We were given two ladies, one from Santa Fe and the other from Albuquerque. These two also proved to be excellent company. They, too, were shown our area, and departed with hopes that they would be able to return our hospitality. As an outcome of this visit, Napier District formed a branch of The Friendship Force, and we were asked to exchange visits with other overseas branches. Soon afterwards, a group from Oklahoma City visited us and invited us back. Our tour was arranged at an unbelievably low cost. We were to have a week hosted in Oklahoma, followed by a week hosted in New Mexico with the members we had hosted. The tour was to be for a



maximum of 60 days with unlimited travel, within the States, upon any of Continental Airlines service flights. This was too good to miss.

Great was our excitement, as was that of our hosts, when we wrote to say that we were coming and that we were enclosing the dates we would be with them. We left in mid-May. It was not until we got to Albuquerque that we were able to visit orchid growers and then time was very limited. The first was Mrs Marge Savino, President of the Albuquerque Society. Her collection was housed in a conservatory attached to the house. This was automated and a wonderful set-up. The plant that first took my eye was a huge *Oncidium Kalihi* carrying four enormous spikes with their large butterfly flowers high above the plant swaying in the fan's breeze. She grew a wide range of genera, and had some beautiful cattleyas and paphiopedilums on her shelves.

The second grower was Mrs Peg O'Neill, who has many plants named after her. She is an orchid judge with an outstanding collection of *Oncidiums*, *Cymbidiums*, *Paphiopedilums*, and many other genera. Her equitant *oncidiums*, of which about fifty were in flower, seemed to be hanging everywhere. Unfortunately, it was the wrong time of the year to see orchids in the States — I would pick the summertime to go visiting in America!

Except for seeing a few cut flowers, mainly cattleyas and phalaenopsis, in homes and shops, and numerous crucifix orchids (*epidendrums*) in people's gardens, we saw very little until we got up into the cooler latitudes of Canada. In Florida and Louisiana, our next stops, we saw many glorious flowers but practically no orchids; we were probably in the wrong areas.

While in New Orleans, we received a letter from our Canadian friends (Bert had also sent a copy to our next stop in Fairfield, Connecticut, fifty miles north of New York, in case this one arrived too late and missed us). He wanted us to

get an early flight from New York to Buffalo. He would cross the border, meet us, show us the American side of Niagara Falls, and then cross back to Canada to show us that side. This seemed an excellent plan and with the help of a travel agent, the neighbour of our Fairfield friends, we were able to arrange it. It meant being in New York overnight so we could catch the 7.00 a.m. bus from Newark Airport.

Everything fell into place better than we had hoped. The train from Fairfield dropped us at Grand Central Station, immediately below the Grand Hyatt Hotel. An escalator took us up to the foyer, and the bellboy took us to our room. We found that many hotels have a special cheaper rate at weekends to encourage visitors then. Friday, the day we were stopping overnight, is one of these days. We spent the rest of the day seeing some of the major sights, including the Empire State with its outstanding views. Next morning our bus departed from its terminal a hundred metres from the hotel and took us to Newark.

We landed in Buffalo soon after 9.00 a.m. and there, on the tarmac, waiting for us were Bert and Phyl. After fond greetings and collecting our luggage we were taken to Niagara Falls. We spent a time seeing all the viewpoints of the Falls and the rapids — a wonderful sight! We crossed over to Canada, went through Customs, and then saw the Falls from the Canadian side. Close by were well-kept gardens and glasshouses with a few orchids scattered among the foliage plants. Unfortunately, the breezes were blowing towards the Canadian side. These brought a misty spray from the Falls over many of the viewing positions, so we went up into the hill area overlooking the Falls and had some marvellous views.

Downstream, we viewed the Power Stations, the Whirlpool and the Floral Clock before leaving the area. Next, we were taken to the Welland Canal where we were able to see one of the largest wheat-tankers passing through the

locks, with only a few centimetres clearance on each side — quite a tricky business, for the pilot was steaming through under the ship's own power, as far as we could see.

It was now time for our hosts to return home. On the way, it was reminiscent of our own Hawke's Bay — vineyards, orchards and market-gardens — the only things missing were the sheep.

As next day, Sunday, was Canada's Father's Day we had a relatively quiet day. We were driven around to see some of the local sights, and then returned to meet our hosts family who had come with their children for a barbecue tea out on the patio. A very pleasant day — quite restful after all our travelling.

Next day we were up early and set out at 7.00 a.m. to see some rare cypripediums which we had heard and read about. We were told they could be found growing wild in boggy areas of the Bruce Peninsula. This is a peninsula jutting into Lake Huron, north of Toronto. We had gone about 80 km (Canada is metric) when the weather broke and heavy rain fell. As it was nearly time for the local weather forecast we tuned in to find it was not very promising up ahead. The weatherman predicted that it would be much improved the next day. After a brief discussion we decided to divert our route, see Toronto, and go to the Bruce next day.

We were lucky for the weather improved in the Toronto area, and we were able to walk around the Downtown, see some of the shops, the Parliament Buildings, and some of the parks. Our host had worked in Toronto, commuting each day to his home 100 km away — an hour's drive — so was very familiar with the city.

In one of the parks, Edward's Civic Gardens Centre, there was a bookshop with a wide coverage of botanical and horticultural topics. Imagine my surprise to see on the shelf copies of Dorothy Cooper's "A Field Guide to New Zealand Native Orchids" and "Slipper Orchids,

the Art of Digby Graham" by Robin Graham, with Ronald Roy. Also on the shelf was copies of the A.O.S's "Beginner's Handbook" by Gordon Dillon at C\$7.50. It looked interesting so I bought one and have found it most informative. It is not only a book for beginners but a reference book on the culture of most major genera both for species and hybrids. Well worth buying!

The following day we made another early start. The weather prediction which was for fine weather over the Bruce Peninsula proved correct. It was a glorious day. This Bruce Peninsula is considered a naturalist's paradise. It is formed by an escarpment that stretches back beyond Niagara Falls, over 700 km, and it is over this escarpment that the Falls drop. It is a hard, rocky, undulating layer, in many places being covered with bush. A track has been cut from Niagara to the northern tip of the Bruce, Tobermory and is regularly tramped by naturalists and enthusiasts in the warmer months; outdoor books have been written raving over the grandeur of its scenery, its fauna and its flora. The Bruce Trail skirts many towns, and even passes through quite a number of residents' properties (it crossed the back of my host's section).

A couple of hours later we were entering the Bruce. Much was farmland which soon changed to light scrub made up of spruce, firs, pines and silver birch. There were no hills, just slightly undulating country, cut by a well-sealed highway and only a few side roads. In places close to Lake Huron were small clusters of lakeside cottages in little bush settings. At one of these spots we stopped to visit one of our host's friends. He was absent, but I was assured that it had been arranged that I see his garden. In an open space close to some bush were some pink flowers — a cluster of showy Lady's Slippers (*Cypripedium reginae*). Nearby were two clumps of golden *Cypripedium calceolus* var. *pubescens*, all in full flower.

To be continued



# An Introduction to Paphiopedilum Species (Part 2)

by Ronald Roy of Christchurch

This part deals with the best known species from Thailand, Kampuchea, Vietnam and Malaya. The distribution of orchids seldom matches national boundaries but where possible the principal country of occurrence is the one given. Also colonies of a particular species can often be found at a considerable distance from the main area of occurrence. In time such colonies may develop particular characteristics which set them apart from the mainstream of the species. If sufficient variation of a constant nature occurs the colony may be assigned a varietal name to distinguish plants from the area. Early on such varieties may have been given separate specific rank only to be reduced to varietal forms by modern taxonomists.

## **Paphiopedilum appletonianum**

The original importation by Low and Co., in the early 1890's was claimed to come from Borneo but as it arrived with *P. callosum* it was most likely collected in Thailand. Has now been established as occurring around the northern Thailand/Laos border area. A first description of the flower was given by Gower in 'The Garden' in 1893. *P. appletonianum* is a member of the section *Spathopetalum* (knife shaped petals) and does not differ greatly from some others in the section, e.g. *P. johorensis*, *P. bullenianum*, *P. linii* and *P. wolterianum* which occur further south in the Malay Peninsula and in Borneo. I photographed a rather unusual *P. appletonianum* in Christchurch in 1962. It had been imported from Thailand in the 1950's as *P. appletonianum* 'Sublaeve'. A slide sent to Dr. Schoser in Germany in 1973 was identified as *P. linii* which was, according to the literature, only discovered in 1964, in Sarawak. There is still a lot to be learned about the distribution of some slipper species. The leaves of *P. appletonianum* average about 15 cm long, are medium green and lightly mottled. The scape is erect, 35-50 cm long and single flowered. Flowers about 10 cm across, dorsal sepal small, oval, recurved on lower margins and hooded at the apex, greenish-yellow striped with green and brown. Petals spreading and drooping slightly from a marked shoulder, greenish at base, violet rose at tips, some brown spotting along inner half of



*P. appletonianum*

upper margins. Pouch narrow, yellow at apex, brownish towards aperture. Staminode has a wide deep cleft in lower edge. Requires intermediate temperature. Flowers in spring.

## **Paphiopedilum barbatum**

This orchid was discovered about 1840 by Cuming on Mt. Ophir in the Malay Peninsula and introduced by Loddiges in whose nursery it flowered in 1841. It occurs throughout the Malay Peninsula and southern Thailand at



*P. barbatum* var *Warneri*

elevations of 300-1300m, growing best at the higher levels. It was one of the earliest paphiopedilums to be introduced to cultivation and it immediately became popular for its ease of culture and the range of varieties available. *P. barbatum* is a small growing plant with attractively mottled leaves about 16 cm long and under good conditions soon multiplies to give a nice specimen plant. The scape is 20-25 cm long and bears a single flower about 8 cm across. Dorsal sepal round with a short pointed apex, white veined red-brown and sometimes has a red flush over lower half. Petals are narrow, spreading, red with brown veins and bearing numerous small, hairy, black warts, principally on upper margins. The shortish pouch is dark red veined with dark brown. Staminode large and crescent shaped. A small plant of one of the most attractive varieties, *P. barbatum* 'Warneri', still exists in Christchurch. Favours intermediate temperature, moderate shade and should be kept reasonably moist.

### **Paphiopedilum bellatulum**

Introduced by Low and Co., in 1888 with no indication of the location of origin. Later collected from Burma and Thailand where it occurs in limestone country at elevations up to 1,500m. Nature of habitat varies from shaded mossy areas to open cliff faces and the species adapts to the particular environment by variation in the size and nature of the surface of its leaves which range from 20 cm long in lush conditions down to 10 cm in exposed areas. The upper surface may be soft and waxy or touch and leathery depending on light intensity and exposure. In cultivation *P.*



*P. bellatulum*

*bellatulum* will tolerate stronger light and drier conditions than most other paphiopedilums, but like all the slipper orchids the roots should not be allowed to dry out completely. The leaves are dark green mottled with paler green on upper surface and heavily marked with crimson-purple underneath. The growth is flat rather than upright. Flower scape very short with the large flower often nestling in the centre of the growth. Flowers up to 7 cm across; dorsal sepal broad; petals large, elliptic; pouch



smallish, ovoid; all parts white to pale lemon heavily spotted with purple. Flowering season spring/summer.

### **Paphiopedilum callosum**

Closely related to *P. barbatum* but occurs further north in Thailand and Kampuchea at elevations up to 1000 m. Discovered by M. Alexandre Regnier in 1885. A robust plant with 6-7 leaves per growth, it soon develops into a good specimen plant. Leaves about 20 cm long, upper surface light green veined and blotched with darker green, underside greyish green with some purple spotting at base. Scape usually single flowered, 25-35 cm long. Flowers large, up to 12 cm across, variable in shape and colour. Dorsal sepal very large, roundish with short pointed apex, often unevenly waved on margins, white flushed green at base and with radiating stripes of green and purple. Petals sharply deflected downwards, green at base, rose purple towards slightly uplifted tips, lightly veined, a few large, ciliated, black warts on upper margins. Pouch large, brownish purple. Intermediate temperature, moderately heavy shade, do not overwater. Flowering time summer.



*P. callosum*

### **Paphiopedilum concolor**

Discovered by Rev. C. Parish in 1859 near Moulmein in southern Burma and

introduced to cultivation by Low and Co., in 1864. Widespread but discontinuous distribution throughout Burma, Thailand, Kampuchea and Vietnam. Shows regional differences that are recognised by varietal names. Grows in limestone territory at elevations usually below 300 m. Leaves up to 15 cm long, broad and rounded at tips, the waxy upper surface dark green mottled with greyish green. Underside lighter green with some fine purple spotting. Scape short, about 10 cm, 1-3 flowered. Flowers about 6 cm across, pale yellow, unevenly sprinkled with fine crimson spots. Dorsal sepal more or less circular; petals oblong, depressed, rounded apically; pouch egg-shaped with incurved margin. Intermediate temperature, good drainage is essential. Flowering time spring-summer.



*P. concolor*

### **Paphiopedilum delenatic**

This attractive species was not discovered until 1913 when a plant was found in Tonkin (North Vietnam). It was brought to Europe by M. Delenat. A few very small collections have been made since but most plants available have been nursery raised from seed. It is a smallish plant with dark green leaves tessellated with grey-green, underside heavily marked with dark purple. Scape erect, to about 20 cm in well grown specimens, bears 1 or 2 flowers about 7



*P. delenatii*

cm across. Dorsal sepal small bluntly pointed, petals round and well spread, pouch spherical with a contracted aperture and infolded margin. The general appearance of the flower is pink, the pouch being considerably darker than the other parts which vary from pale pink to white. Staminode is large, rhomboidal, red with two yellow patches. Is regarded as a difficult plant to grow but like the rest of the brachypetalum sub-genus it responds to warmth, high humidity, perfect drainage and moderate light. Flowering time spring-summer.

### **Paphiopedilum exul**

This rather neglected species is at last becoming more popular, principally for the longevity of its flowers. It comes from Thailand where it is found in limestone country at low elevations. First described by Ridley in 1891 and was originally regarded as a variety of *P. insigne* which it resembles. The growth is upright with stiff, glossy, light-green leaves about 20-25 cm long. Scape to about 25 cm bearing a single flower about 8 cm high by 6 cm wide, of heavy texture, glossy and very long lived. Dorsal sepal ovate, greenish yellow with a broad white border and centrally spotted with brown purple, curved forward at apex. Ventral sepal very large, extends well below the pouch,

light yellow. Petals strap shaped with waved margins, yellow, spotted at base with red-brown, curved forward. Pouch bright shining yellow. Intermediate temperature, requires a rest in winter. Flowering time spring.



*P. exul*



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# The Media Controversy

by Jenenne Bradley

What type of media do you grow your orchids in? Bark, pumice, peat, perlite, sphagnum? There are so many types and combinations possible. One may be as variable as the next depending on the environmental conditions in your greenhouse or growing area. To assess the situation, let's first ask the question: What are you aiming to supply from your media: 1 — support, 2 — water, 3 — aeration, 4 — nutrients. I would like to assess each of these features in turn, giving an indication of the scientific expectations, and hopefully a few solutions to the dilemma of your choice.

Response in the form of criticism or confirmation to the Editor will allow any new grower to decide his own path and maybe swing a few of the more experienced growers in a new direction.

## Support

One of the media's prime aims is to keep the plant upright so that the leaves face the sunlight for photosynthesis, and to give anchorage to prevent the plant toppling.

## Water

When we water a media to saturation (flooding), all pores are filled. If we leave this media to drain for 24 hours, the large pores empty, allowing air to replace the water. Now, water readily available to the plant is in the small pores of the media. So for an ideal media we should have an adequate amount of large pores for aeration as well as small pores for water holding. A very coarse media has plenty of aeration but not much water holding capacity. Do you solve this by watering daily or how about saving labour and include a media component with small pores such as peat, sphagnum moss and oasis foam to improve water holding capacity.

## Aeration

Plant roots need to obtain air from the media to respire and grow. The uptake of water and nutrients is inhibited by lack of air in the root zone, hence the need for a percentage of large pores in the media. Many orchids grow in the wild as epiphytes, thus the aeration of the roots is close to 100%. As a result most people conclude that aeration of the media needs to be very high, but remember nature provides a high humidity in these circumstances and with the surrounding atmosphere saturated with water plant transpiration is greatly reduced. The New Zealand climate does not provide such high humidity so why not utilize a media giving aeration through a large percentage of draining pores as well as a percentage of smaller pores for water holding capacity.

To be continued



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# Growing Epiphytic Orchids in South Australia

by R. T. R.

## *Cymbidium canaliculatum*

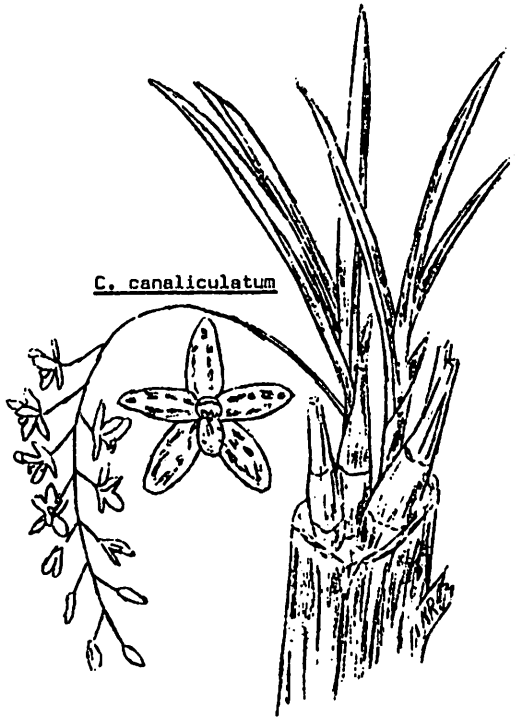
A most interesting orchid, also one of the few epiphytes to grow in Western Australia. It is credited with a southern limit of near Forbes in New South Wales, extending northwards to Cape Yorke Peninsula in northern Queensland and westwards across the Northern Territory to the northern areas of Western Australia.

Although sometimes found in the near coastal areas of the eastern states it is primarily a plant of the open forests of the drier inland areas. In some of its habitats there is less than a 55 cm rainfall, summer temperatures of over 38°C with a very low humidity and winter temperatures dropping to below freezing. While not exclusively, it is usually found growing in hollow branches or trunks of trees where its roots penetrate the decomposed wood and often grow to considerable length. No doubt the fact that the roots are protected from the heat enables it to survive and even thrive under such harsh conditions.

It frequently grows to form large clumps of crowded pseudobulbs having two to six leaves which are thick, rigid and channelled and are from 10 to 50 cm long and 2 to 4 cm wide. The racemes are up to 50 cm long and can be erect or pendulous with up to 60 extremely variable flowers about 2-3 cm across.

The colours range from green, brown, purple, dull red or a combination of those colours and may be either with or without spotting, the labellum, however, is usually white with red markings.

I find that *C. canaliculatum* responds reasonably well to cultivation and have grown and flowered it in plastic planters filled with a mix of charcoal, pine bark and rotted hardwood, also in hollow logs filled with the same mixture. Propagation from backbulbs has been with limited success and it looks like about a six year project from planting to flowering.



An established plant can take full sun and will withstand our winter frosts without detriment. Fertilising has been with the occasional dose of liquid fertiliser. When purchasing from a nursery I would suggest medium to small plants as although large clumps may look attractive they usually have had the root system almost completely removed — an operation to which they do not take kindly.

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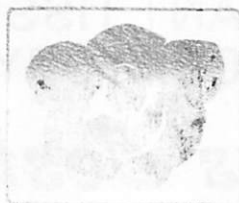
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An Orchid Ancestry Chart helps you understand what makes your hybrid as nice as it is. You intend hybridising orchids; then the Ancestry Chart gives you the species and hybrids in your orchid's background in an easy reference form.

If you are interested, then send either

- (a) Your orchid's registered name, or
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It can sometimes be useful, with tracing, for you to send details of who and where you purchased this orchid from.

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Good Orchid Growing,  
Regards,



So put a feather in your Hat!  
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**O**RCHID **H**YBRID **A**NCESTRY **T**RACING **S**ERVICE

Cymbidium Sue (1980)

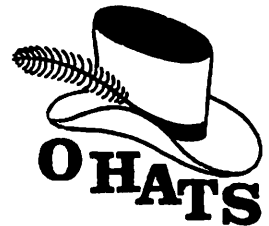
Peter Pan	}	Ensifolium
		Miretta 1957
		Sweetheart 1962
		Alexanderi

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Wavy lines representing a list of orchid names and their parentage.



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 P.O. Box 1381  
 Hastings  
 Phone: (070) 87-785



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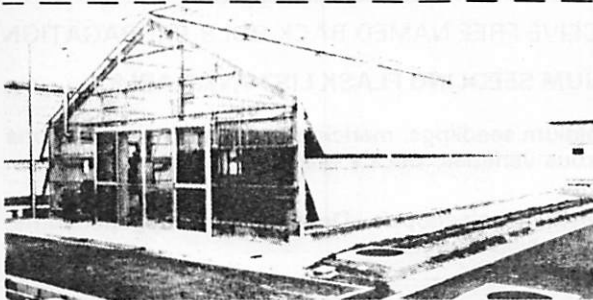
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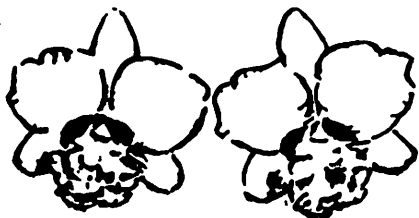
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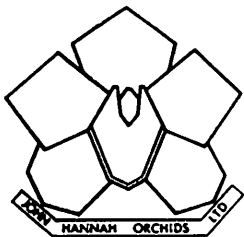
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