

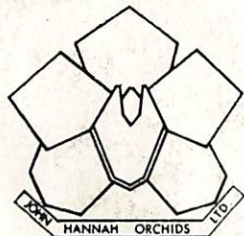
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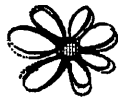
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Cover Photo:

Odontoglossum Cathay x Odontioda Triuma. A good example of the orange/tan shade found in modern Odont. crosses. From the Charlesworth collection (A division of McBeans Orchids Ltd., of England).

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EDITORIAL

HAIL AND FAREWELL

With this issue of 'Orchids in New Zealand' a change in Editorship occurs. This will inevitably mean a few changes in layout and style, but we will do our best to please.

Orchid growers throughout New Zealand owe a debt of gratitude to Graeme and Pam Boon. Since this journal was founded ten years ago, they have handled the task of editing and assembling the material for publication, dealing with enquiries, finding advertisers, and steering a safe course through the sometimes troubled waters of orchid society politics. This May/June issue completes the tenth year of publication, and we would like to regard it as a tribute to their efforts.

They have committed much of their spare time to the journal, allocated much of the spare space in their home to seemingly endless quantities of paper, and devoted a great deal of travel time and distance to the welfare of 'Orchids in New Zealand'. Happy Retirement, Graeme and Pam!

The completion of ten years of publication also seems an appropriate time to thank our printer, Bill Deed, who

has been printing the journal since 1978. Bill has gone out of his way to be helpful, and always has an eye open for ways of reducing costs. What more could one ask of your printer? Many thanks, Bill.

Your new Editors hope to maintain the high standards set in the past. In order to do this we need articles to publish. Please help us by sharing your orchid experiences with our readers.

Due to unforeseen circumstances our takeover coincides with additions to our home, which also involve the rehousing of our orchids. If we seem rather distracted over the next few months, please bear with us! We will try not to mislay your correspondence in the confusion.

Whether we will be able to stay the course for ten years remains to be seen. But rest assured, we will do our best.

Nick and Elizabeth Miller

G. S. T.

No, your eyes are not deceiving you, there are two Editorials in this issue. This unprecedented occasion is compounded by the fact that one of these Editorials is semi-political in nature.

The Editors are reluctantly compelled to take this step by the recent publication of the White Paper on the Goods and Services Tax. In the version proposed in the White Paper, non-profit organisations will be required to collect the tax. This would mean that the Orchid Council [the publishers of this Journal] and, probably, your local Orchid Society, would be compelled to act as revenue collectors for the Central

Government. In general, the officers of such bodies are acting on a voluntary basis, for the wellbeing of the organisation concerned, and are not enamoured of the idea of becoming [unpaid] tax collectors.

Incorporated in this imposition would be taxes on subscriptions, sales of publications [e.g. 'Orchids in New Zealand'], sales table turnover, raffles, show admissions, etc. Returns and payments would be required every two months. This would impose severe burdens on the administrative structures of such organisations. Society Secretaries and Treasurers would become even harder to find!

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Pause for a moment, and reflect on the organisations of which you may be a member — Orchid Societies, Horticultural Clubs, Rugby Clubs, Lions, Rotary, Charities, Kindergartens, C.W.I., School Committee — the list is endless. Do you feel that Central Government, and in particular, the Inland Revenue Department, have any business poking their noses into these groups? If not,

make your feelings known now! By the time that this issue reaches your mailbox, the deadline for public submissions will have passed. Such a short time for consideration of such a major issue! So please write or telegraph the Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, and local Member of Parliament. Keep Big Brother out of hobby horticulture!

GRAEME AND PAM BOON

We have reached our first milestone. "Orchids in New Zealand" is now 10 years old and well established in the New Zealand orchid scene.

Founding Editors Graeme and Pam Boon, have continued their service with "Orchids in New Zealand" since its inception.

I recall in correspondence from Graeme, when appointing him as the first Editor, that he would be happy to perform this task for the first two years. Somehow that two years has grown and been extended to 10 years. Time has come for Graeme and Pam to retire from the Editorship and now concentrate on their own orchid growing.

Although Graeme was officially appointed as Editor, he has been ably supported by his wife Pam, who has also devoted most of her time over this 10 year period to the Editorship.

Their task has been a most difficult one, from the initial setting up and publication of the first issue until finally being able to secure sufficient material for the recent issues.

Many people have been pressed for articles over recent years and the results of their efforts have

established a national publication containing a wide range of articles and information specifically pertaining to orchids and orchid growing in New Zealand.

One specific aim of Graeme's was to publish only original material in "Orchids in New Zealand", a task that he has been able to uphold and it is perhaps this issue alone which has established such a desirable and entertaining national publication.

With publication and printing schedules to meet on a regular basis, the Boon household may have been quite chaotic at times.

Your efforts, dedication and willingness — Graeme and Pam — to travel the country endeavouring to provide "Orchids in New Zealand" with a national coverage and flavour have certainly been most appreciated by all orchid growers and readers both in New Zealand and overseas, so that your association with this publication will long be remembered.

I trust that many associates and friends will be attending the Council A.G.M. in Rotorua on the 22nd June where an official acknowledgement and personal thanks will be given.

D. K. BELL
President

Australian and New Zealand Terrestrial Orchids as Greenhouse Plants "Aussie Rules"

W. James Harper
Palmerston North, New Zealand

Presented at the 5th Asian Orchid
Congress 1984

Several years ago, on the wall behind a great many pots of Australian terrestrial orchids on display at an Orchid Show in Melbourne, was this sign:

*Native Orchids are protected
They should never be collected
from the wild unless the habitat
is to be destroyed.*

*Tubers and plants are available from the
Australian Native Orchid Society*

To me, this sign expresses a sound philosophy in respect to orchid conservation — namely that orchids should not be collected indiscriminately. They should be saved from habitats under destruction, and the desire of the public to grow these plants should be satisfied from plants (or propagations) grown in nurseries for that purpose, either from seed or from vegetative propagations. Thus seed and tuber banks become a means for conservation. It is my belief that this can and should be a function of Orchid Societies in those areas where orchids are found.

To accomplish the development of a seed or tuber bank, it is necessary to first learn how to grow the plants and how to accomplish propagation. At this point, let me digress to explain how I have become involved in the growing and propagation of terrestrial orchids.

My wife's and my interest in Australian terrestrial orchids began about seven years ago during a six month stay in Melbourne, was fed by successfully growing a few *Pterostylis* in the U.S.A. and then strengthened and expanded to New Zealand terrestrials as a result of spending the past three years in New Zealand.

A number of New Zealanders interested in native terrestrial orchids told

me that the New Zealand terrestrials couldn't be grown successfully under greenhouse conditions and that they hadn't been grown successfully from seed. Therefore, a decision was made to try the Australian terrestrials first, since I had had some success earlier in Ohio. After a year's success, a few of the easier to grow New Zealand species were tried — also successfully. In the intervening years I have also found a number of people who have successfully grown New Zealand terrestrial orchids. Mention should be made of the fact that over 1/3rd of the terrestrial orchids in New Zealand are common to Australia (See Table 1).

My objective, however, is not just to grow the terrestrials, but to develop means of propagation that can lead to the formation of tuber banks. These would provide plants and the knowledge of how to grow them to interested orchid growers — as a means of preventing people (especially people who have no knowledge of how to grow the plants) from taking plants from the wild.

Because of my contact with the Victorian Group of the Australasian Native Orchid Society, I have relied pretty much on "Aussie Rules" — which are much less complicated than

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Aussie rules for football. Of course, the Aussie Rules have become modified as needed to fit Kiwi conditions. I was fortunate to be involved at the formation of the Terrestrial Study Group of the ANOS and it was largely the nucleus of this group that has been instrumental in learning how to grow and propagate Australian terrestrials from Victoria. They had a major motive in the fact that many species of natives grew in those areas that were rapidly being cleared for suburban development. In at least one case now, there are more plants under cultivation than remain in the wild.

BASIC GROWING METHODS:

The booklet "Growing Orchids in Melbourne" is highly recommended and is available from the Victorian Group of the Australasian Native Orchid Society. (Secretary — Mr Don Smith, 6 Beacon Court, Lower Templestowe, Victoria 3107, Australia).

The basic mix in Melbourne is:

Coarse sand	2 parts
Buzzer chips	1 part
(wood chips from a planer, but must be untreated wood)	
Mountain soil	1 part
Leaf mould	1 part
Blood and bone	"a dash"

I have modified this mix by using pumice instead of sand; using medium fir bark in place of buzzer chips, and a rich loam in place of mountain soil. Also the blood and bone have been left out, but a weak solution of liquid fertilizer is used every other watering. The mix has a pH of about 5. For terrestrials growing in limestone regions, the addition of lime can be used to raise the pH level.

The basic mix is suitable for *Pterostylis*, *Acianthus*, *Diuris* and *Thelymitra*. (Also suitable for *Disa*). For genera that like damper conditions, such as *Corybas*, increase the leaf mould by 1 part. And for genera that like drier conditions, such as *Caladenia* and *Glossodia*, increase the coarse sand or increase the bark.

For propagation purposes, a 4 inch plastic pot is used for 4-8 tubers. Fine screening or fine mesh cloth is placed in the bottom of the pot to discourage snails and slugs. The pot is filled about $\frac{2}{3}$ rd with mix and the tubers are arranged in the pot with the growing eyes up. The tubers are placed about 5 cm below the top of the pot and then covered with about 3 cm of mix, which is slightly tamped to leave 2 cm below the top of the pot. A 1cm topping of pumice or casuarina needles (latter preferred) is placed on top of the mix.

If seed is to be sown in the pot, then some rotted wood should be mixed in with the casuarina needles.

Palmerston North is cooler than Melbourne in the summer and has more frosts in the winter, so a growing area is needed that will protect the plants from rain water and frosts. I converted a garden shed into a terrestrial house with a plastic roof and leaving one side (East) open to give good air movement. The open side is covered with mesh to provide a wind break and plastic can be dropped if the weather is going to be especially cold. Benches have been provided to minimize problems with snails and slugs. A door is needed to keep out birds and animals. Good air movement and cooler conditions than a closed-in greenhouse are beneficial. Excessive heat in the summer causes premature die-back and a reduction in tuber multiplication for colony formers.

If a greenhouse is used, then special care must be taken to provide good air movement and to prevent overheating.

Once the plants begin to grow, the mix is kept damp, but not wet. The moisture level of the pot should be kept as uniform as possible during the growing period. The pots are thoroughly watered about every one or two weeks as required. Most urban water is satisfactory; but if high in pH or chlorine, rain water is preferred. The pots are filled with water to the top of the pot. When conditions are too wet, you can have problems with fungus gnats

larvae destroying the tubers. Keeping the pots out of standing water is essential. Toward the end of the growing period, the pots are allowed to dry out to prevent rotting of the tubers. The time for plant die-back varies from species to species, and generally is earlier in the year for Australian than for New Zealand terrestrials.

Because a main objective is propagation, the tubers are harvested each year. Otherwise tubers of some plants (colony formers) become crowded and production is poor. Harvesting is done after the tops die back, which is usually between November and January. The tubers may be potted up but not watered until February or March. An alternative method is to put the tubers in a plastic bag with slightly damp (not wet) sphagnum moss. The tubers should not be too wet or they rot and they shrivel if too dry. The handling of dormant tubers is a key aspect of the culture of these terrestrials.

Repotting can be done with all fresh mix, but I have noted a better yield of tubers from colony formers using 1/2 old and 1/2 new mix. A problem with this method is that very small tubers may be missed in the old mix and thus one can end up with mixed pots of different genera.

PROPAGATION:

The Australian and New Zealand terrestrials can be divided into two broad groups:

- (1) the colony formers, and
- (2) those that reproduce only by seed

The colony formers (such as *Pt. nutans* and *T. longifolia*) are the easiest to grow and propagate. Those interested in growing from tuber bank supplies should start with colony forming *Pterostylis*. Properly grown, they can multiply up to 5 times per year. Propagation of this group is achieved by good growing and avoiding pests. Best results have been achieved by:

- a. Repotting every year
- b. Using 1/2 old and 1/2 new mix
- c. Not potting too many tubers in a pot

- d. Fertilizing with 100:35:75:25 N:P:K: Mg every other watering

After the first few times, I lost my hesitation about unpotting growing plants, since I have found this does little damage and the plants can be repotted most any time.

Those terrestrials that reproduce from seed are much more difficult to propagate. Vegetative methods have been successful with some species, but knowledge is incomplete as to how widely these techniques can be used. Methods that have been tried and have worked with *Pterostylis* and *Thelymitras* include:

- a. Breaking off the sprout from the tuber when the plant has just started to grow (2-3 cm sprout) and planting both the tuber and sprout.
- b. Breaking off the flower stem just above the tuber after it has opened and putting it in a tube of water. About 1/2 of the time a new tuber will form at the base.
- c. When the plant flowers, the new tuber is well formed and the old tuber is deteriorating. Break off the new tuber and store. Replant the plant minus tuber and new tubers (2 or more with *Pt. vitatta*) will form.
- d. Work on tissue culture from tubers is just beginning and results are incomplete at this time.

The multiplication rate is generally not more than 2 by this method.

For seed propagation, two methods are used. One is to use agar culture symbiotically with fungi associated with the genus (Mark Clements, 1982). The other is to sprinkle seed on the top of a pot in which the same species is growing. The former method promises to be most productive, but requires special facilities and an available fungus.

There is some indication based on Clements' work that the fungus is specific to at least genus level. The latter, which gives very low yields of germination, is applicable to the hobby grower. Flowers are hand pollinated (using flowers from different plants if



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possible). The seed is harvested and stored in a refrigerator until the following year. When the plants of the species involved have broken through the surface of the mix, sow the seed on the casing needles and rotted wood topping. Be careful in watering not to wash the seed away. When harvesting the tubers, remove the first 2 cm on top of the pot and put it on top of the repotted tubers. The first year the tubers will be too small to find. For best results use the seed from several seed pods on the same pot.

RESULTS TO DATE:

Results have been generally satisfactory with very good results with a number of the colony formers. Multiplication rates with easy to grow *Pterostylis*, such as *Pt. nutans*, *Pt. curta* and *Pt. concinna*, has been from three to five times the original number of tubers.

There has been one serious setback with an outbreak of fungus gnat (Scarid Fly) larvae attacking tubers in pots that were kept too wet during the summer. This has been the most serious problem, resulting in the loss of some species and a decrease in the number of tubers of others. Treatment of the pots with Malathion resulted in loss of additional tubers. Treatment of the mix with Malathion destroyed the larva and permitted the use of portions of the old mix after it had stood for several weeks to dissipate the Malathion. The best control is to prevent excessive moisture in or around the pots.

New Zealand plants have not grown as well as the Australian ones. There has been a lower level of multiplication for colony formers which is related in part to less experience with the New Zealand plants and in part to their requiring cooler summer conditions than we provide. Thus our conditions are better for the Australian terrestrials. In addition the New Zealand terrestrials sprout later and also die back later in the year. These are aspects that will be corrected with experience.

Overall, experience has shown that Australian and New Zealand terrestrials can be grown successfully as potted plants. The procedures described can be applied to the preservation of the species through the use of intelligent rescue operations as required and through the development of tuber banks to satisfy the desires of people wanting to grow their native terrestrials without taking plants out of the wild.

Table 1:

Terrestrial Species Common to Australia and New Zealand (Taken from Johns, J. J. and Molloy, B. 1983. Native Orchids of New Zealand. A. H. & A. W. Reed Ltd., Christchurch).

<i>Acianthus reniformis</i>	<i>A. viridis</i>
<i>Caladenia catenata</i>	<i>C. lyallii</i>
<i>Calochilus campestris*</i>	<i>C. paludosus</i>
<i>C. robertsonii</i>	
<i>Chiloglottis cornuta</i>	<i>C. formicifera*</i>
<i>C. gunnii</i>	
<i>Corybas aconitiflorus</i>	<i>C. unguiculatus</i>
<i>Cryptostylis subulata</i>	
<i>Gastrodia sesamoides</i>	
<i>Microtis parviflora</i>	<i>M. unifolia</i>
<i>Othoceras strictum</i>	
<i>Paracaleana minor</i>	
<i>Prasophyllum nudum</i>	<i>P. patens</i>
<i>Pterostylis cycnocephala</i>	<i>P. foliata</i>
<i>P. mutica</i>	<i>P. nana</i>
<i>P. nutans*</i>	<i>P. plumosa</i>
<i>Spiranthes sinensis ssp australis</i>	
<i>Thelymitra carnea</i>	<i>T. ixioides</i>
<i>T. longifolia</i>	<i>T. matthewsii*</i>
<i>T. pauciflora</i>	<i>T. venosa</i>

*Thought to be extinct in New Zealand.

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TAURANGA

The OCNZ/NZOS Display in London

Who said there weren't enough flowers in New Zealand in March to stage a display at the RHS Centenary Orchid Conference in London?

We all knew it was a bad time of the year for flowers but with a lot of enthusiasm, planning and 'phoning, five cartons of orchid blooms from around the country left by Air New Zealand on Saturday 16th March for London. These were to be collected, delivered to the RHS Halls, unpacked and stood in water until Andy Easton of Geyserland Orchids, Rotorua arrived to set up the 6ft x 4ft table display on the following Monday. Andy had also sent cartons of blooms for his own display table next door.

The OCNZ/NZOS display was to be the focal point of a promotion for the 2nd International New Zealand Conference in Wellington later this year and the 13th World Orchid Conference in Auckland in 1990. These displays will be organized for all future major overseas conferences leading up to the 1990 Conference, and include Australian Conferences and the 12th World Orchid Conference in Japan in 1987.

Dot Cooper and Janet Mendoza in Wellington arranged boxes of blooms from that area, Ron Maunder collected blooms from Tauranga, Hamilton, Te Kuiti and New Plymouth, Syd Wray assisted with blooms from Whangarei and lots were brought in by enthusiasts around Auckland to the North Shore Orchid Exporters Co-op Packing Shed at Marion Wright's place in Northcote. Marion and Lil Crouch (who packed blooms for Singapore and Miami last year) were kept busy addressing cartons and preparing the packaging for the flight. As blooms arrived by hand and courier they had to be re-cut and soaked in a special chemical dip for ten minutes, to stop ethylene production by the blooms, then transferred to another

preservative solution which keeps the water uptake in the stem from being blocked by slime.

A wonderful range of genera was to be seen around the pack house. There were beautiful spikes of phalaenopsis, white, orange and purple cattleyas, lovely pink and white phalaenopsis-type dendrobiums, blue vandas, a green and brown phragmipedium, pretty pink and green Peter Pan miniature cymbidiums and a lovely range of odontoglossums and their intergenerics. A branched spike of yellow and brown *McLellanara* Pagon Lovesong blooms on a metre long spike just fitted into a box. There were even a few paphiopedilums, oncidiums, brassias and at least two huge heads of *Odontoglossum* (*Rossioglossum*) *grande*.

People came to look, to help and to photograph. When the M.A.F. inspection had been done, onlookers were chased away and the hard work of packing began. The miniature cymbidiums and phalaenopsis with their straight stems were easy to pack, but the lumpy cattleya heads and the phragmipedium with its 20 inch petals required a lot of patience and expertise to cope with. Next day the cartons were taken to Auckland Airport by Marion and sent off on the evening flight.

Thanks to Marion and her helpers, to those who arranged for and sent blooms from around New Zealand and to Andy Easton for arranging the flight and the setting up of the display, we were able to fly the flag for New Zealand and let all those attending the prestigious Centenary Orchid Conference in London know that we grow beautiful orchids in New Zealand.

If you missed out or forgot to send blooms this time, please do your best to help when the request comes for blooms next time.

Ron Maunder

POVERTY BAY EAST COAST ORCHID SOCIETY

20th September, 12 noon- 9.00 p.m.
21st September, 10.00 a.m.- 6.00 p.m.
22nd September, 10.00 a.m.- 4.00 p.m.

Archery Club Hall, Disraeli Street, Gisborne.

TARANAKI ORCHID SOCIETY

20th September, 1.00 p.m.- 8.00 p.m.
21st September, 10.00 a.m.- 6.00 p.m.
22nd September, 10.00 a.m.- 4.00 p.m.

Agricultural Hall, Elliot Street, New Plymouth.

SOUTH TARANAKI ORCHID SOCIETY

21st September, 1.00 p.m.- 5.00 p.m.
22nd September, 10.00 a.m.- 4.30 p.m.

Hawera Community Centre.

MANAWATU ORCHID SOCIETY

20th September, 2.00 p.m.- 8.00 p.m.
21st September, 10.00 a.m.- 5.00 p.m.
22nd September, 10.00 a.m.- 4.00 p.m.

Girls High School Hall. Non-Competitive Display.

HUTT VALLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

21st September, 2.00 p.m.- 6.00 p.m.
22nd September, 10.00 a.m.- 5.00 p.m.

Horticultural Hall, Lower Hutt.

CANTERBURY ORCHID BEGONIA AND FERN SOCIETY

21st September, 11.00 a.m.- 8.00 p.m.
22nd September, 9.00 a.m.- 5.00 p.m.

Horticultural Hall, Cambridge Terrace, Christchurch.

NEW ZEALAND ORCHID SOCIETY

27th September, 10.00 a.m.- 9.00 p.m.
28th September, 10.00 a.m.- 6.00 p.m.
29th September, 10.00 a.m.- 5.00 p.m.

Mt. Albert War Memorial Hall, Auckland.
Staging by 7.30 p.m. 25th September;
Judging 26th September.

TAUPO ORCHID SOCIETY

27th September, 10.00 a.m.- 6.00 p.m.
28th September, 10.00 a.m.- 6.00 p.m.
29th September, 10.00 a.m.- 4.00 p.m.

Memorial Hall, Tongariro Street, Taupo.

SOUTHLAND ORCHID SOCIETY

4th October, 10.00 a.m.- 8.30 p.m.
5th October, 10.00 a.m.- 4.30 p.m.

State Insurance Functions Room.

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Autumn Shows

North Shore Orchid Society and Hutt Valley Orchid Circle have already had Autumn/Early Winter Shows.

Winter Shows

WELLINGTON ORCHID SOCIETY

6th July, 10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.
7th July, 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.
St. Oran's College, Lower Hutt.

NEW ZEALAND ORCHID SOCIETY

5th July, 10.00 a.m. - 9.00 p.m.
6th July, 10.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m.
7th July, 10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.
Mt. Albert War Memorial Hall.
Setting up by 7.30 p.m. 3rd July; Judging 10.00 a.m. 4th July.

WAIKATO ORCHID SOCIETY 'SILVER JUBILEE WINTER SHOW'

27th July, 11.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.
Te Rapa Racecourse, Hamilton.
A special show, combined with a luncheon, this jubilee year.
All other members welcome - please notify Secretary, if coming.

GOLDEN COAST ORCHID SOCIETY

23rd August, 1.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.
24th August, 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.
25th August, 9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.
Southwards Vintage Car Museum.

HOWICK ORCHID SOCIETY

24th August, 10.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.
25th August, 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.
Howick Community Centre, Howick-Pakuranga Highway.
Setting up Friday 23rd August.

Spring Shows

2ND NEW ZEALAND INTERNATIONAL ORCHID CONFERENCE SHOW

Public Viewing:
10th October, 10.00 a.m. - 10.00 p.m.
11th October, 10.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m.
12th October, 10.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m.
13th October, 10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.
Wellington Winter Show Buildings.
Setting up 8th October; Judging 9th October.

KAITIAIA ORCHID SOCIETY

6th September, 12 noon - 5.00 p.m.
7th September, 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.
Yugoslav Hall, Commerce Street.

ROTORUA ORCHID SOCIETY

7th September, 10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.
8th September, 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

Sportsdrome, Rotorua.
Setting up 6th September.

WANGANUI ORCHID SOCIETY

7th September, 11.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.
8th September, 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.
War Memorial Hall, Wanganui.
Setting up 6th September.

WAIRARAPA ORCHID CIRCLE

8th September, 11.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.
Senior Citizen's Hall, Cole Street, Masterton.

OTAGO ORCHID CLUB EXHIBITION

7th September, 1.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.
8th September, 1.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.

WHANGAREI ORCHID SOCIETY

13th September, 12 noon - 8.00 p.m.
14th September, 10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.,
then Dinner.
15th September, 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.
Forum North.

NORTH SHORE ORCHID SOCIETY

13th September, 1.00 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.
14th September, 10.00 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.
15th September, 10.00 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.

A.T.I. North Shore Hall, Akoranga Drive, Northcote.

SOUTH AUCKLAND ORCHID SOCIETY SPECIAL 10th SHOW

14th September, 1.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.
15th September, 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

Community Hall, Great South Road, Papakura.

WAIROA ORCHID SOCIETY

13th September, 11.00 a.m. - 9.00 p.m.
14th September, 10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.

MARLBOROUGH ORCHID SOCIETY

14th September, 2.00 p.m. - 8.00 p.m.
Centennial Hall, Blenheim.

WAIKATO ORCHID SOCIETY

20th September, 1.00 p.m. - 8.30 p.m.
21st September, 10.00 a.m. - 5.30 p.m.
22nd September, 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

Te Rapa Racecourse, Hamilton.

THAMES VALLEY ORCHID SOCIETY

20th September, 9.00 a.m. - 8.00 p.m.
21st September, 9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

Memorial Hall, Thames. Non-Competitive Display.
Setting up 19th September.

TAURANGA ORCHID SOCIETY

20th September, 10.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m.
21st September, 10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.
22nd September, 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

Town Hall, Cnr. Wharf and Willow Streets.

STOP PRESS — OUR DISPLAY A WINNER!

As this magazine goes to press we have just heard the good news that our efforts were not in vain! The OCNZ/NZOS sponsored display to the R.H.S. Centenary Orchid Conference in London during March, resulted in a Silver Medal for our display and an AM/RHS for that lovely clone Giselle 'Tainui', owned by Miss K. M. Clark of Torbay, Auckland. (Well done, Molly! Ed.)

Giselle was originally hybridized by Stewarts Orchids of California, U.S.A. and purchased by Miss Clark as a seedling. Several other clones of this crossing of Korintji 'Golden Showers' x *madidum* came to New Zealand but all are rarely seen at our shows because of their flowering time. This *madidum* cross is unusual in that it has almost erect spikes. The erect habit comes

from the Korintji which has the strongly erect species *C. ensifolium* as one parent — as does Peter Pan. The *ensifolium* has dominated the pendulous habit of the *madidum* parent in this case. Giselle 'Tainui' has 25-30 glowing golden green flowers (fading to ochre in time) and bright ochre yellow lips with a few dark maroon spots. The 50cm-70cm spikes open at various times of the year — usually between December and May and the 7cm blooms are of an open shape and rather larger than most *madidum* hybrid flowers. The strong scent from both *madidum* and *ensifolium* is not very noticeable in 'Tainui'.

Giselle 'Tainui' also received a medal in the New Zealand display at the 11th World Orchid Conference in Miami last year for Miss Clark's friend, Lil Crouch of Waimauku, Auckland. Congratulations to Miss Clark on receiving this coveted award and helping us promote New Zealand as we lead up to the 13th World Orchid Conference here in New Zealand in 1990.

Ron Maunder

ORCHID DAY

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Saturday 23rd June 1985

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Ron Roy
George Fuller

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P.O.Box 323
ROTORUA

Jim Gardiner — Orchid Grower and Baker of Matamata

Ron Maunder, Tauranga

Several times over recent years I have visited Jim Gardiner of Matamata and heard about his involvement with orchids over the last 60 odd years. The other day I went armed with notepaper and pen.

I was greeted with a cheery "The door's not locked, Ron" in response to my knock on his door. Jim has been widowed these last 12 years but still keeps a spick and span house and he was soon offering some home-made fruit cake for afternoon tea. Later I was to find out he had been a baker most of his life. Six foot with white hair, glasses, and a faint accent and a cheery smile, Jim still bustles around his house and garden with scant account for his age. After quite a chat I started off the interview.

R.M. Jim, you say you came to New Zealand when you were 11 years old?

J.G. Yes, I was born in the Scottish town of Eventon — only six miles from Dingwall where McBean came from. He had moved to England before my time of course. My father was a tailor and our family came out to New Zealand in 1911 when I was 11.

R.M. Did you go into the tailoring business with your father when you got here, Jim?

J.G. No, after a year or so of schooling, I left to work for the Union Oil, Soap and Candle Co., in Auckland. I worked under the Chemist and went to school at night to train as an Industrial Chemist. We were just starting to produce glycerine when the First World War came on and I was man-powered into my uncle's bakery. All my relations out here were bakers. After the war I was a qualified baker and got a job on the passenger ship Niagara — a 12,000 tonner which sailed between Sydney, Fiji, Hawaii and

Vancouver. I was one of several bread bakers in the 380 crew. There were about 3,000 people aboard, on a trip. I remember the ship's carpenter and I slipping ashore together at every opportunity. We visited nurseries and parks and gardens and often came back aboard with plants and flowers. The ship often used to carry bird of paradise, crotons and anthuriums from Hawaii to Vancouver as cut flowers and pot plants.

After several years I returned to New Zealand and owned bakeries in Waipu then Maungataroto and Auckland. In 1932 I sold out and moved to Matamata where I baked until about 20 years ago. When I sold out here, I went into orchids and cut flowers full time.

R.M. When did you first get involved in orchids, Jim?

J.G. Back in 1918 I met a chap called Tom Whitely in Auckland. He had five acres with three long 10ft wide glasshouses full of *Paphiopedilum insigne*. He also had some "Sanderi" and "Harefield Hall" forms of *insigne* too. There were a few tubs of *C. lowianum* about. The rest of the land was in dahlias which he hybridized and raised from seed. He also judged at shows. He taught me all about it and I became a judge too.

His wife and daughters ran a florist business from home. The dahlias were used for wreaths in a big way then.

R.M. When did you start growing orchids yourself then?

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LYCASTES

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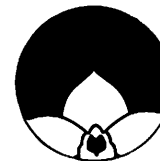
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Mellow Gold 'Fire Iron' — Desert tones. Second growth on larger plants. Full size range.

(Ora Lee x Dag) *'Baby Bright'* — Green. Some have two to three growths. Full size range.

Except for *Negrito 'Cherry Ripe'*, each variety is priced as follows:

15cm high	\$6.00
20cm high	\$9.00
25cm high	\$12.00
30cm high	\$15.00



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NOTES FROM APOROSTYLIS



Whisperings of another Orchid Show for the Auckland circuit this year! Commercial growers are believed to be planning their own show in a busy Auckland shopping centre. Dissatisfaction with exclusion from shows, high commissions on sales, limits on plants sold and no opportunities for individual sales are rumoured to be behind this move. It will be interesting to see how this venture goes and whether their move into the market place will be copied by societies in their local shopping centres. Overseas it has been done for years.



A large collection of *Lycaste* species and hybrids has recently changed hands. A large proportion originally came from the late Albert Blackmore's collection. It is pleasing to see such a collection remain intact after 20 years of collecting by the old owner, and not be auctioned off to the four corners of New Zealand or to someone who possibly doesn't value them or know how to handle them.



Going overseas? Then visit a few orchid growers and nurseries or seek out plants in the wilds. Then come home and tell us all about it. Remember to take some photos too! We need interesting articles for our magazine.

If you can't write it yourself, see your magazine representative at the society and he will arrange to get a story from you.

By the way! A certain Rotorua grower has recently been to China. Did you see any orchids, Don? Then there is the expatriate New Zealander at Kew who collected orchids in India or Thailand a while back. How about a story, Dave?



What makes a cymbidium spike initiate? Scientists the world over are trying to find out. Something has certainly set spikes earlier this season! Lots of lovely Peter Pan hybrids, Lerwicks, Minette 'Green Queen' and others are showing up at meetings and the markets, (mid-March). These latter two don't have early blood! Everywhere growers are talking about a bumper crop. I wish I knew what caused the early spiking.



Do you photograph your prize blooms? Would the resulting shots be good enough to go on our cover? This year we want more colour in the magazine. New editors, Nick and Liz Miller, want better quality photos — colour and black and white. They have commissioned a professional to write a series of articles on flower photography.

The first New Zealand National Orchid Judges Seminar in Taupo on Queens Birthday Weekend, will have two sessions on photographing award plants and the Seminar in Rotorua during the OCNZ A.G.M. will include photography amongst its topics. Too many photos aren't sharp and have extraneous backgrounds. So remember to think twice when taking a picture! Better still, put down TRIPOD on your birthday or Christmas present want list — and don't forget to use it!



J.G. I didn't really have the facilities or money to spend on houses until I got here in 1932. I used to go up to Auckland and visit growers, and sometimes we would all end up at Fred Powell's place. He was a great grower and had big houses of crotons, anthuriums, and *insigne* "Harefield Hall". George Clark, Eric Prince, Geoff Laird and others would be there. Fred Parker in New Plymouth was another great enthusiast. I remember them importing cymbidium back bulbs and paying twenty to fifty pounds each for them!

R.M. What mixes did you grow them in, in those days Jim?

J.G. We were all of British background of course, so we used turfy loam and fine pieces of broken clay pot or "crock" and sometimes a little sand. You went to a paddock and skimmed off the top 4" or 5", stacked it in heaps for a few months and then shook all the lovely soil off and chopped up the roots and stuff left behind. This was the base and mixed with crock and using a potting stick, we potted our plants into clay pots. We never used any fertilizer! It was unheard of — we might kill the plants! It's amazing how well we grew them without any fertilizer. George Clark secretly started feeding with cow manure tea and got excellent results — then the word got out!

R.M. Jim, where did most of your plants come from?

J.G. Before the second World War we brought them out from England from Low, Armstrong and Brown, Black and Flory, Mansell and Hatcher, Charlesworth, Dorset, Sanders and McBean. There may have been a few others. They came in their pots, sealed in boxes and took about six weeks by sea. They were very dehydrated on arrival and some even flowered

during the trip. We didn't lose many. Low's produced lovely cattleyas. Most firms had cymbidiums. Mansell and Hatcher and Charlesworth also had *Odontoglossums* as well and Sanders had all sorts of genera. 3" cattleyas would cost 7/6 each and a 5" pot of *Paphiopedilum* would cost 30/- or more. The freight cost more than the plants usually. Some firms sent us rubbish — flowered seedlings or things we hadn't ordered. I suppose they knew we couldn't do much about it! Others charged twice the price, but the quality of plant and resulting flowers were generally worth the extra.

After the war plants came to Sydney by air and then here by flying boat. We always insured plants then of course. One time I had ordered cymbidiums from Low's and the shipment had to be dumped from the flying boat over the Tasman. I suppose the plane ran low on fuel or lost height and they had to lighten the load! Anyway when I saw the invoices I was glad they'd been dumped overboard! Things like lowianum were on the list! I got the refund transferred to McBeans or someone else after that.

Later, I used to go over to Sydney nearly every year and buy. I met a lot of the local growers and American visitors too. Of course we had trouble getting English sterling and had to scrounge 5/- British Postal Notes, etc. I used to get in several hundred pounds worth at a time and grow them a while and sell them for a good profit. We also used to send orchid flowers to Auckland, Wellington and as far as Dunedin on the bus. In those days prices were good and plants scarce.

At this point a pretty little seven year old girl knocked and entered. Jim said "Come for your witches

brew, have you Paula?" and got up to mix her an ice-cream and ginger ale. This was followed by raisins to eat and a kiss goodbye. "See you in the morning" she said as she skipped off. "Never had any family" said Jim "but the three little girls next door have all been bathed and fed by me over the years". "I walk her to school every morning". We are great mates.

R.M. Was there much hybridizing being done here in New Zealand before the war, Jim?

J.G. Yes, in the early days we sprinkled the seed around the pot or grew it on sphagnum moss. Eric Prince used to do a bit. He was a chemist so had knowledge. Henry Rudolf in Wellington used to raise seed in flasks and some was sent over to Henry Boyd in Sydney. I never registered any crosses, although in 1979 a local enthusiast and I registered Kaimai — which is Vieux Rose x Whyba. I've still got a few nice ones out there in the glasshouse.

R.M. Do you ever consider giving up orchids, Jim?

J.G. Oh no, it would be like giving up your friends! I still potter about and do my garden and repot the orchids. I sell my surplus plants down the road for the I.H.C. People are always popping in to see my orchids and have a chat. I met Fred Powell's daughter a month or so ago. If only I could be starting all over again! The fantastic oncidiums or odontoglossum hybrids I see in the magazines. They are making wonderful improvements to all the different genera today. Things we never dreamed of!

M. What orchids do you grow in your houses out there now, Jim?

J.G. We'd better go out and have a look before it gets dark. Mostly cymbidiums now. The frosts in winter here are too cold for anything else. I used to have cattleyas, paphs and odonts. Of course I grew a lot of things like begonias and fuchsias from seed for sale as pot plants.

We spent the next half hour wandering and chatting in the two glasshouses. There were a hundred or more large pots of cymbidiums with lovely erect leaves and lots of spikes. Some very modern names like Sensation "Chianti" 4N among them. I saw *Aeridovanda mundyi*, *Dendrobium speciosum* in flower bud and several other bits and pieces. Just on dark Jim and his cat saw me to the front gate. With a very firm handshake and "Thanks for coming. Come again", Jim headed inside as drizzle came on. I headed off over the nearby Kaimai Ranges in pouring rain. What a great afternoon it had been listening to all Jim's anecdotes and memories of friendships over the last 70 years. How glad I am to have heard his story and recorded some of it.

Through great isolation, depressions, wars and failures the early growers had kept battling on and spread the wonderful hobby of orchid growing throughout New Zealand. Thanks Jim Gardiner for your part in it and may you continue to grow orchids for many more years.

Editor's Note:

We hope to publish more such reminiscences of early growers and nurseries. Contributions are very welcome, particularly from some of our more senior readers.



THE HOUSE OF ORCHIDS

MAY 1985

Our free 'Summer 1985 Orchid Catalogue' is now available. A huge range of 'other genera' from *Aeranthes* to *Zygopetalums* as well as world famous cymbidiums from Adelaide Orchids are offered. Plants, community pots and flasks are all listed.

Send large self-addressed envelope plus 30c stamp to us at 145 Manuka Road, Glenfield, Auckland 10. Phone: 444-9771.

HOUSE OF ORCHIDS

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MINIATURE CYMBIDIUMS

Seven Well Grown Varieties

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REFER TO ORCHIDS IN NEW ZEALAND
JANUARY—FEBRUARY 1985

Aviemoire 'Challey' early (Putana x Kurun) early flowering pastel cream/pink	\$15.00
Strathaven 'Brighton' (Putana x Berwick) early/mid season deep pink, fine crimson marked lip	\$15.00
Annan 'Cooksbridge' AM/RHS (Camelot x Berwick) mid/late season. Deep port wine, deep crimson velvet lip	\$15.00
Aviemoire 'December Orange' (Putana x Kurun) early flowering. Orange flowers on good spike	\$15.00
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Strathdon 'Cooksbridge Red' (Nip x Kurun) Nice shaped red with attractive well marked lip. 6"-8" pot size	\$25.00

Mrs Marion Wright

63 HILLCREST AVENUE, NORTHCOTE, AUCKLAND 10
Phone: 484-914

on the Atherton Tablelands. Within fifteen minutes or so of leaving our Motel we were travelling up a steep hill through rain forest and were soon looking down on the coast we had just left. The start of the Tableland flats was almost like our Desert Road, but with Bluegums, and the big mud mounds of the ant hills. Some ant hills were all of seven feet high, and covered quite a large area. We soon came to the De Bush Orchid Nursery. While the family admired the work of millions of ants, I was admiring hardcane *Dendrobiums* and *Cattleyas* in the De Bush shade-houses.

On to Tinaroo Dam in nice looking farmland. Still waters reflecting bright coloured Bouganvillia's dotted round the well kept lawnslopes. The Tinaroo Orchid display is mainly rambling shade-houses, connected by paths. The assortment of flowering plants was great, but unfortunately not named, so I only knew some of them. *Cattleyas*, *Vandas*, *Dendrobiums* were some. Bought a mini flask with one splash petal cattleya plant in it. So far it's doing well, having been deflasked late last year.

While in Cairns I bought several flasks, from the Saturday Market, from Nurseries, from Tinaroo and even one from a Supermarket.

Our ten days over, with David and Merry gone their own way by plane, Len, Heather and I set out on our return to Brisbane, with seven days left. First stop Babinda to see Mr Wilkie, a wonderful man of unguessable age, who has done so much for native orchids in Queensland over the years. He has lived in, worked in and loved the bush and hills around since he was a boy. He told me the names of some of the orchids he discovered or had seen, but I didn't take any notes, so promptly forgot those details. Mr Wilkie has a half acre section with his beloved orchids growing in trees, in gardens and even in the vegetable garden there was an orchid growing and in flower. It was about six feet high.

Townsville next and to Burleigh Park Orchid Nursery. Mr Walters was in the process of transferring many plants, flasks and equipment from his older shade and glass houses to his new big houses about 5 km along the road. The new houses are big, bright, well ventilated and have a good sprinkler or misting system. Bought a slimline flask of a miniature *Dendrobium* and a mini flask of *Cattleyas* with six plants in it, to add to our already laden car. Called in at two Orchid Nurseries at Mackay but time was short that day.

Back in Brisbane we had a week before our return to our lovely New Zealand, so out came the orchid nursery books again. Both Len and Heather's comment was, not too many more please. Five more, that's not many. Mackinnies is within walking distance, so I went there on my own. Mackinnies section has lots of large gum trees and orchid plants are being put in nooks and crannies in and around them, *Laelia*, *Oncidiums*, assorted *Dendrobiums* are but a few starting to grow. The well kept shade houses contain all sized *Dendrobiums*, *Lycastes*, *Oncidiums*, *Vandas*, *Cattleyas* and lots more.

Sunshine Nurseries at Bald Hills, three more mini flasks of *Cattleyas* added to our collection. They have big shade houses and glass houses but I didn't see them as they were very busy. Aranbeem Nurseries huge new shade houses and a huge glass house that was imported from Auckland. Good one Kiwi's! Their ventilators are opened and closed by water pressure. Turn on one tap and all the vents open or close at the same time. I think Aranbeem own five acres of land with large gum trees that in time will be festooned with tree dwelling orchids. Hope I get back to see it all again.

In all the shade houses and glass houses I don't remember any orchid plants kept on floors or ground. They were either on shelves, netting base or slats, or hung from wires or hooked to walls, divisions. A wonderful month, so much to see, so many ideas if only they can be remembered when needed.

PUREORA ADVENTURE

Beryl Goodger of Tauranga

As I read the stories of orchid hunters of the past searching for exotic species, I marvel at their exploits and sympathise with their sufferings. Some were after the glory or rewards and some were dedicated, but now I am more than ever convinced that orchid hunters are mostly just plain crazy. Take us, for instance — we don't go looking for big exotic orchids, just our own native species, many of which are very tiny and often overlooked, but nonetheless perfect. We think they are beautiful and at the very least interesting, and to see them, we drive hundreds of kilometres, walk over endless tracks, climb up innumerable hills and scramble about in the most unlikely places. (I draw the line at climbing trees unless they are already prostrate!). We get scratched, bitten, sunburned, rained-upon, — not always on the same day, tired and sometimes horribly dirty.

Today, we topped it all by driving over 300 km return, on the strength of information that a certain orchid was flowering in a particular place in Pureora Forest. True, we were able to drive all the way to the site this time, but then came the crazy part. Suitably dressed in shorts (etc.) and old sneakers, and equipped with a good stout stick, we set off. Husband Bob has his camera slung around his neck and friend Bruce has the certain knowledge of the whereabouts of at least one plant, so we follow his lead and wade into the swamp to look for and photograph *Prasophyllum patens*. Now we know that swamps are always squelchy, and that last year Bruce had trouble keeping the water out of his gumboots (hence the sneakers), but what he did not tell us, was that the mud was red and very soft, with lots of water all through the area — he says it was deeper this year! So you can imagine me up to my knees in ooze, feeling very thankful for my stick, as I slowly follow the men. I must admit that I gave up on reaching the first flowering plant and turned back, leaving them to explore further, as my height, or lack of it, was against me.

I carefully retraced my steps, gingerly feeling for the islands of reeds, but they did not seem to work as well as they usually do. There was one place where Bob had helped me over on the way in, but I am sure I could negotiate it on my own and stepped across this wider channel of water. Safely across! But no — at the last second, the firmer ooze subsided and down I went. Fortunately,

I sat back and found a cushion of some reeds, getting only my shorts wet and muddy, in addition to my lower extremities, which had been in that state for some time already. Just as well this trip was at the height of summer (January), so that I soon dried out after rinsing off the mud in some relatively 'clean' water when I reached firm ground once more. A handy piece of rag helped, because guess who had the car keys in his pocket — and it was quite a while before they made their way back to dry land. Hopefully Bob has some good slides to show for his efforts.

With our enthusiasm undampened, we spent the rest of the day checking out likely spots for other species such as *Thelymitra* and *Pterostylis*. We didn't find too many flowers but we had a lot of fun. The bonus of this trip was when Bob stopped the car to investigate a sighting of some plants which turned out to be *Gastrodia minor* — past flowering, but with seedpots. These were growing under pines right next to the forest road, which shows that botanising from the car can pay off, though we don't advise it on the highway!

If anyone had suggested ten years ago that I would be doing the things that I do now, I would have thought that THEY were crazy! Now, in spite of some of our experiences, it is a lifestyle that I can recommend — plenty of exercise and fresh air and always something new to learn about and appreciate.

Second New Zealand International Orchid Conference 9-13 October 1985 Show Rules and Conditions

1. The Second New Zealand International Orchid Conference will be held at the Wellington Show Buildings, John Street, Newtown, Wellington. The Show will be open to the public Thursday 10 October to Sunday 13 October; and open to registrants only Wednesday 9 October (4.00 p.m. — 6.00 p.m.) 1985.
2. Judging will be in accordance with the Standards and By-laws of the Orchid Council of New Zealand. Judging will be by certified OCNZ judges and judges of other national and international organisations, and will begin promptly at 11.30 a.m. Wednesday 9 October 1985. The decisions of these judges will be final.
If, in the opinion of the judges in any class, no exhibit warrants it, a prize will not be granted.
Any queries regarding the interpretation or application of these rules and conditions shall be referred to the Show Convenor and/or Chairman of Judges for a decision, which decision will be final.
3. Each exhibitor agrees, upon making entry, to abide by the rules and conditions of the Show. The Show Committee reserves the right to create additional rules and conditions, or to modify those already announced, when this is deemed to be in the best interests of the Show. All rules and conditions presented here or hereafter shall be construed to supplement those in existence.
4. Set-up times for exhibitors will be from 1.00 p.m. — 9.00 p.m. on Tuesday 8 October 1985, and from 9.00 a.m. — 10.30 a.m. on Wednesday 9 October 1985. All displays including Floral Art entries must be staged and ready for judging no later than 10.30 a.m. on 9 October.
5. All exhibits and exhibitors shall conform to the Rules and By-laws of the Orchid Council of New Zealand.
6. Entry to all of the Show Schedule classes is free.
7. Entries in the Floral Art Classes must be in writing and must be in the hands of the Conference Secretary by 31 July 1985.
Entries to Classes 3-7 (Displays) must be in writing on the official "Display Space — Application Form" available from the Conference Secretary (Note — all New Zealand Societies have received this form).
Completion and submission of this form by 30 June 1985 will constitute an entry in the appropriate Class.
8. All plants staged in Classes 3-7 (Displays) must be clearly and accurately labelled in accordance with labelling conditions laid down by the Show

our ten day home at a Motel in Captain Cook Drive in Cairns. What a difference had developed in the general growth around us. Waist high grass, ten foot or over, tall lush sugar cane, rain forest, Gloriosa lilies that we treat as special, just growing in abundance in gardens, Cooktown orchids flowering in fruit trees in gardens. The temperature and humidity were hard to endure. To sleep at night we wore as little night attire as possible, lay on top of the bedding, had ceiling fans going, doors and windows open yet we were still hot. Rain storms came down the valleys from the hills, sometimes just hovering at the foothills, sometimes finding their way over the town. Birds are in abundance, as we heard each night and early mornings. Noisy things but nice to watch.

The Orchid growers I contacted were helpful, made me feel welcome and not the nuisance the family implied when I mentioned that awful swear word "Orchids".

Through addresses gained from "The Australian Orchid Review" and the "Queensland Gardener", we were able to find and visit many orchid growers within easy travelling distance. The Limberlost Nurseries are in the Freshwater Valley, a long established nursery for orchids and general garden plants. The shade houses were big, with metal chip on the pathways. We only saw in two houses as the staff were spraying in the others. Hardcane *Dendrobiums* seemed most prevalent, with *Cattleyas* in eye catching spaces. Richard Mills has a small garden shadehouse, full of *Dendrobiums* and *Cattleyas*, many in flower. His glass house and workshop are tucked in alongside, didn't see in the glass house, no time. Lonnes, large well filled shade houses, *Cattleya* and allied genera, *Ascocentrum*, *Aerides*, *Oncidiums*, *Paphiopedilum*, *Vandas*, *Encyclia* and of course, *Dendrobiums*. Others I've forgotten or can't spell. I think Lonnes Nursery is the place where I first noticed the little plants were glued onto their piece of bark or cork. Hundreds and hundreds of them hung along the walls or divisions over

benches. Everything so tidy and happy looking. Nevin's well filled shade and glass houses are only about fifteen minutes walk from town. My best memory of their flowers is the beautiful *Cattleyas*. Made my mouth water. Kevin McFarlanes, very close to the spacious Botanical Gardens, has two shade houses, not very big by comparison with the ones we had just visited, but bigger than mine by far, and packed with unusual *Cattleya* crosses and the lovely striped *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* of his own crossing, huge flowers and lots per spike. Some of the plants were the ones I had been so taken with at the Queensland Orchid Show where they had taken good prizes. Plain pinks, whites, mauves and mixed colours were all delightful.

We went on a jet boat trip to Green Island, where there are *Dendrobium bigibbum* and the like planted and flowering on the tree trunks and branches. Will be a lovely sight when they establish and grow bigger.

We had been told to be sure not to miss the Saturday Market, starting at 6.00 a.m. each Saturday. I persuaded David to take me by car by 7.30 a.m. What a bewildering sight. Over two hundred stalls most of them under a huge roofed area, the overflow in the car park beside it. There was a stall for everything, goats, hens, ducks, clothes, handcrafted items of all varieties, fruit, vegetables, fish, fresh and cooked, plants, trees and of course orchids. About ten orchid growers had stalls. George Valmadre, who I had spoken to by 'phone, took me through the area and introduced me to most of the orchid stall holders. *Dendrobiums* and *Cattleyas* were the main orchids for sale. There were plants, flasks, flowers and native plants offered.

The number of people around, behind and even some children under the stalls had to be seen to be believed. The prices seemed very reasonable, but I wasn't able to get very close to have a good look.

One day we five packed a picnic lunch and spent the day travelling around up

A QUEENSLAND JOURNEY

Lorna Grey, Tauranga Orchid Society

Some of the highlights of our trip last year, taking us from Brisbane to Cairns, and back, by car. My husband Len, son David, daughter Heather, her friend Merry and myself made up our party. There was only one Orchid enthusiast among us, so by the end of all those thousands of Km's travelled, the word "Orchid" had been classified as a swear word. On looking back I realize I had been guilty of swearing very often.

The day after arriving in Brisbane from New Zealand, Len and I visited The Queensland Orchid Society Show. The Show was well supported by Orchid Societies from near and far, even Cairns, which took my eye as we were heading that way the next morning. The flowers I remember most are *Cattleyas* of all shapes and colours, especially Blue Boy, the assortment of *Dendrobiums* and *Dendrobium phalaenopsis*, mauves, pinks, splash petal, stripes, antelope and all shapes imaginable. One thing seemed missing, *Cymbidiums*. There were very few, seems the climate did not agree with them very well, but the warmer growing genera more than made up for the *Cymbidium* absence.

The first room, the entrance hall, held tables laden with Orchid Books for sale, leaflets of information about the 12 or so local Societies, plus other Societies further afield. In the next room were the orchids displayed and to be judged. Masses of them. The third room held sales tables, meal tables and kitchen plus an area for demonstrations which were held at regular intervals. I watched a rather root tangled *Cattleya* being sorted out. Gave me courage to tackle mine when we came home.

Mrs Smith from the suburb Asply, invited us to attend the Asply Orchid Societies Show being held one month later. We had returned from Cairns by then, so were able to enjoy their Show too. One display that was extra eye catching was mainly *Dendrobiums* and *Dendrobium phalaenopsis*. Like The Queensland Orchid Society Show, the Asply Show was competitive, lots of entries all in classes except *Cymbidiums*, with only two entries in the Miniature

Class, none in the Standard. Once again, very noticeable to a Kiwi. Our trip to Cairns was quite speedy, the first day travelling for eight hours took us to Rockhampton. The next day nine hours took us to Townsville. My main memories of those two days is very dry river beds, hump backed cattle and many horses living on almost bare dirt, no sheep at all, Bluegum trees and ants. Huge ball ants and green ants by the picnic areas or anywhere we stopped.

The third day was more of a travellers delight, later start, shorter distance, only to Bingle Bay, more stops just for looking at things. The Hidden Garden at Mission Beach is really hidden from the road by jungle trees, palms and ferns. No Bluegums. We saw our first Cassowary birds, didn't know they can be dangerous, or I wouldn't have got out of the car and followed them to photograph them. Seems I was quite lucky as the parent birds had half-grown chicks to protect. I didn't get a photo either.

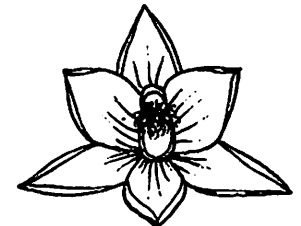
The Hidden Garden area from memory is several acres, mainly in a gully surrounded by jungle growth called Rain Forest. Their shade houses are small, and used also as an Office area. There are orchids planted or fastened on trunks and branches of tall trees. The paths through the trees are growing with mosses and ferns. The only orchids I remember in flower are *Vandas* growing on a wood rail fence in full sun in a grass area, also *Dendrobium bigibbum* on a tree. On the trees and branches there were tiny leafless orchid plants, long trailing plants and all sizes between.

The fourth day was a late start and a reasonably short distance travelling to

Committee. The plant owner's name must be readily available for prize card preparation purposes.

9. All orchid plants exhibited will be eligible for prizes providing they comply with all other relevant rules. The Judges will adjudicate on all plants considered worthy of an award.
10. Plants competing for prizes must have been owned and in the possession of the owner for at least the preceding six months.
11. Plants competing for prizes must be clearly and accurately labelled with the plant's name in full (including previous awards) and the owner's name.
12. The Show Committee reserves the right to reject or remove any unhealthy plant.
13. No flowers or fruit other than orchids may be used in any display. Foliage plants, moss, etc., may supplement exhibits but may not have conspicuous flowers or brightly coloured berries.
14. No plant may be removed before the termination of the Show at 5.00 p.m. on Sunday 13 October 1985. Should it be necessary to change foliage plants during the Show, this may be done with the approval of the Show Convenor. All plants and exhibits must be removed by 12 noon on Monday 14 October 1985.
15. No responsibility will be accepted for the loss of or damage to plants, blooms, corsages, containers or other property of exhibitors. However, precautions will be exercised for their safety.
It must be clearly understood that exhibits are accepted only at the exhibitor's risk.
16. The Show Committee reserves the right to photograph any exhibit, and publish such photographs.
17. **Definition of a seedling**
A plant exhibited as a seedling must comprise the whole of the clone and be flowering for the first time. Plants which have been grown on and divided prior to exhibition are not eligible to be shown as seedlings.
Identification labels for this class must be obtained from the Show Convenor. A mericlone may not be entered as "a seedling blooming for the first time".
18. This will be the biggest orchid event ever staged in New Zealand and the Conference Committee want it to be the best you have ever attended. Let us know your needs and we will do our best to assist you.
Out-of-town exhibitors will be assigned, on request, a local orchid society member to act as your liaison with the Conference Committee. If you have already made this type of arrangement, please let us know the name of the person who will be acting as your liaison.
19. All enquiries, correspondence, etc., to:

Conference Secretary
P.O.Box 5133
Wellington
New Zealand



S. O. S.

by John Campbell, Christchurch

OR IN OTHER WORDS, SAVE OUR SPECIES

Yes, I'm a species nut! It has a lot of advantages. I don't think I've been without a flower for 10 years and probably there's very seldom less than 20 or 30 blooms out at one time.

Of course, like the single genera growers (translate — Cymbidium growers), I get a springtime flush when hundreds of blooms flower, but I want flowers for more than three months of the year. Yes! Yes! I know there's early and late flowering Cymbidiums, but to get back to my theme, saving species. I want to deal specifically with *Paphiopedilum* species in this article. I have been particularly interested in these since I started growing orchids in 1970.

I was an avid reader of anything orchidaceous and would write to anyone anywhere in the world if I thought I could get onto a rare plant. I'm one of those people who like to start at the top of the ladder. This of course can leave one open to falling and I'd be a liar if I said I never came some croppers in my time. However, within a year of starting growing orchids, I had my first seed in a flask.

I had access to the Lincoln College Horticultural Library, its Horticultural Abstracts and a brother-in-law in the Wellington National Library School. Within a few months I had photocopies of much valuable information on orchid culture in sterile flasks. My first attempt was using immature seed from a green pod (embryo culture) and from a species of course. After my snide remarks about Cymbidiums earlier, I must admit it was *Cymbidium hookerae* (syn. *Cym. grandiflorum*).

My equipment for this first attempt was so crude when I look back, but heck, if you don't have a try, you never make progress. I was very lucky everything went well and in no time

I had flasks full of protocorms. There is nothing like success to fire enthusiasm. Anything that flowered was not safe from my probing match stick and there were pods developing everywhere. Seed was imported from Brazil, a lucky purchase of a chemical balance was made. Pressure cookers, bottles of chemicals, pH papers, flasks and home made sterile (sometimes) work station. My third attempt was of two primary Paph. crosses and a species selfed. The flasking media was Knudsons C and hundreds of seedlings developed. Of course I lost nine tenths of them over the next year from lack of experience in handling seedlings from flasks. (Stepped off the top of the ladder, see). I did manage to raise quite a number of *Paph. Keelingii* and *P. Pinnocchio* which have been spread round the country but the *P. primulinum* fared very poorly in the long run.

Well, this Paph. culture was a piece of cake, I'd soon have thousands of them, even millions. Believe it or not, I've tried dozens, perhaps over a hundred Paph. pods since that time but just can't repeat my original success. Although I raise hundreds of various species and hybrids of other genera, I simply can't raise Paphs. in sterile culture. Because I have such a complete collection of Paph. species, some of which are very rare, I just had to come up with a way of increasing them. I had read about the old symbiotic method used by early seed growers, (i.e. sowing the seed at the base or on the roots of the mother plant), so this was given a try.

Well how about that, within a year I had a few little Paph. seedlings round

THIRD SOUTH ISLAND SEMINAR

Mrs Ngaire Galloway
Nelson Orchid Society

For those of our members who attended the Seminar held in the Trafalgar Centre, Nelson in October, I feel sure there could only have been a genuine glow of pride in our Association's achievement in making this occasion a tremendous success.

For the enthusiasts and orchid lovers who came from all over the South Island and those from the North Island, every aspect of this Seminar must have made their journey to join us feel very worth while. To the general public, with perhaps only a passing interest, orchids in all their beauty and amazing variety bombarded them at the door and completely swept them off their feet and captivated them. To see the steady flow of people clasping pots of orchid plants lovingly in their arms as they left was proof of the appeal the presentation of orchids en masse made to everyone who came to see.

A massive display, beautifully set up and artistically presented does not just happen and it was the culmination of months and months of meetings and planning by the Executive. I wonder whether many people realize the number of hours given by all members of the Committee and a handful of stalwarts who always rally round when needed? Without their efforts the Association would indeed be the poorer.

The various club displays were of a very high standard this year, artistically displayed and with a great depth of varieties and genera. There were displays from Southland, Canterbury, Marlborough, Motueka and Nelson. The award this year was won by Christchurch with a display with a rather Shakespearian flavour and it was a very popular decision. Nelson Association won four awards: Terry Richardson's Miss Muffet winning Best Miniature Cymbidium, Joyce Simpson's *Sophronitis* the Best Species, Harry Simpson's Tijuana Perfection the Best Cymbidium and Jack Stevenson's award winning *Opsistylis* Suree Rachel, Best Other Genera.

We congratulate Jack Stevenson for his Interim Highly Commended Certificate which has now to be ratified.

Our guest speakers, Mrs Kath Black of Levin, Mr John McDonald of Invercargill, Mr Ron Roy of Christchurch and Mrs Jean Jenks of our own Club, addressed us and showed slides on Saturday. I am sure there were many who gleaned more knowledge here.

The cocktail hour and dinner on Saturday night was a night to be remembered. With good friendship and lots of fun this evening was a great success from the start to the last note of "Auld Lange Syne".

A slightly less sprightly beginning to the next morning's sessions followed the good night before. It was a very interesting morning of lectures, slides and demonstrations covering various methods of propagation. Norm Porter of Waikanae, Jack Stevenson and Harry Simpson combined to take this session and our video of these demonstrations will be shown to club members at a later date. A copy of the video has been donated to the Council for their library. Mr Wes Ross-Taylor gave an interesting talk on miltonias which made many of us wonder just why we find them difficult to grow — so easy to the expert! Sunday session ended with a very practical demonstration of how to de-flask cymbidiums. Everyone potted up their own tiny plant and there will be interest in watching the results of our 1984 Seminar homework.

Congratulations to those members who gave so generously of their time and expertise in organizing, their efforts were richly rewarded and enjoyed by all.

CYMBIDIUM CULTURE NOTES

May/June

Gordon Maney
Palmerston North

I suppose it's true to say that every month is important in orchid culture, but because some of our earlies are already flowering and more exciting perhaps some of those early flowering seedlings are showing their blooms for the first time, this period is particularly important.

Each month we should be spending more time with our plants, staking where necessary, and training the spikes too. Quite often you'll find a spike going out at right angles to the bulb, take care here, gradually over a couple of weeks, little by little pull the spike up until you can straighten it; I usually tie several 'twistems' together so that you've got about a foot in length. Tie it round the spike and attach it to the stake as high up as possible.

It's important to remember never ever try manipulating a spike until around mid-day on a fine day, when the sap has risen and too, spikes aren't so brittle.

Again, don't forget those slugs and snails, use Mesurool once every fortnight without fail.

Because the days are so much colder, with frosts, and wet dreary days also, we don't need to water so much. However, don't fall into a trap by letting your orchid house get too dry. Red spider will soon become evident and the damage they do is disastrous. The main thing is to keep your walks and benches wet at all times, even if you can't water so much, and spray once a month with a miticide.

While I don't feed so often at this time of the year, if you're using Microfeeds, then '212' once a fortnight should be sufficient to give strength to your spikes and good colour to the flowers.

If unable to get small quantities of Microfeed, use Nitrosol or Lush, combined with a dry feed of 4 parts super, 4 parts dried blood and 1 part potash. A level dessertspoon round a 2 gallon pot once a month is sufficient. You must thoroughly water five days after feeding and this, of course, stops the build up of salts in the mix.

"AWKWARDS"

Cyril Cymbid

This diverse group of plants is known to be difficult — and has been since long before mere man stumbled upon them!

What supreme, sublime optimists we must be to force upon them such indignities as cramped plastic pots, unsuitable choking mediums, stuffy glasshouses, unwanted unnatural chemicals, copious quantities of H₂O and to expect a profusion of blooms!

Is it more properly we humans who are the awkward ones? Should it not be we who must assiduously study these forest and grassland creatures the better to comprehend their simple needs? Should we not happily lose ourselves for hours at a time gazing upon them, missing not the smallest sign of growth, emergence of root, development of bud, opening of flower? Should we not think on our own respiration and well being and how we would feel if being suffocated, choked, poisoned, drowned, or placed in a straight jacket?

Only when we get close enough, for long enough, to our plants to think like them, look like them, smell like them, can we expect to nurture healthy plants which will then bloom for us.

By this time divorce proceeding will have been instituted by "The Boss" and you will have been relegated to a narrow stretcher in the glasshouse, feeding delicately upon a diet of Maxicrop, Maldison and Potash Special!

The best of British Luck to you.

the bottom of several adult plants. More reading came up with the suggestion that Paph. seed viability was improved by soaking the seed in a sugar solution. My method over the past four or five years has been to dissolve two heaped tablespoons of brown sugar in a litre of warm water and add a few drops of detergent which helps the solution to soak into the fairly impervious seed. Put the seed in the solution just as the pod begins to dry, usually about eight months to a year. The jar is sealed with a screw top and shaken vigorously each time I go past as the seed is difficult to get soaked. I also chant my Mantra while I do this, (really!).

After a couple of days the seed should be soaked and sink in the liquid. I bulk up the liquid with fresh water just to make the seed go further and using a syringe, squirt the seed loaded liquid round adult plants, keeping the liquid agitated to maintain an even distribution of seed. I have found some Paph. species are better mothers than others and often recently imported plants are superior. I have actually removed 46 seedlings from the 7 cm pot of *Paph. callosum*. Some plants are obviously well endowed with the microscopic

DEFLASKING PAPHIOPEDILUMS WITHOUT BOTTOM HEAT

Dorothy Dennis, Te Puke

At a North Island Seminar earlier this year one of the Speakers said it was impossible to deflask Paphiopedilums without bottom heat. As I in my ignorance had done just that with a flask of 'SIOUX' I felt the mistake must be mine for making the attempt. I had been told that young Paphiopedilums like root contact with each other, so had carefully made rings of plants in each community pot so that each plant had root contact with at least two others. The pots were kept in a west facing bathroom and growth was steady but probably much slower. Fifteen healthy, strong plants from a possible twenty is not really failure.

mycorrhiza fungi which assist in the germination of the seed. I mark these plants and give them preference when surling round a batch of seed. Seedlings have even grown out the slots in the sides of the pots and also from the bottom drain holes. When the seedlings are about 3 cm high, I repot them into community pots of 10 to 20 per 10 cm pot. Most baby orchids seem to like company and do better when close together. Yes! I know I don't have a clue what all these seedlings are from such random planting, but nowadays I only make species pollinations so that identification is much easier. Certainly, that may take years but seedlings grown by this method are very strong and I have flowered a *P. barbatum* within two and a half years of pollinating the parent plant. The point of all this discourse is, that it is within the scope of anyone to raise some Paph. seedlings and as most of them are becoming quite rare now, it makes a lot of sense.

I'm sure I won't have any trouble quitting plants of *Paph. druryi*, *P. hookerae*, *P. charlesworthii*, *P. lawrenceanum* and the like when they flower.

With my second flask I was much less confident but mould in the flask finally forced action. In their new pots the baby plants were put in my 'Intermediate House'. A plastic lined tray was filled with 'sealing chips' from the roadside then nearly filled with water and set on top of the 'fridge'. This gives a quite uncontrolled but slightly higher temperature so that in the last 6-8 weeks temperature has not been below 17°C and only once above 25°C.

My mistake was to dunk deflasked plants in Benlate instead of the usual Captan solution to clean off traces of mould. This badly damaged all the leaves and I expected total loss. After daily spraying with water, kept at room temperature, new growth started to show. Now there is good growth of healthy new leaves and there appears to be nearly 100% survival rate.

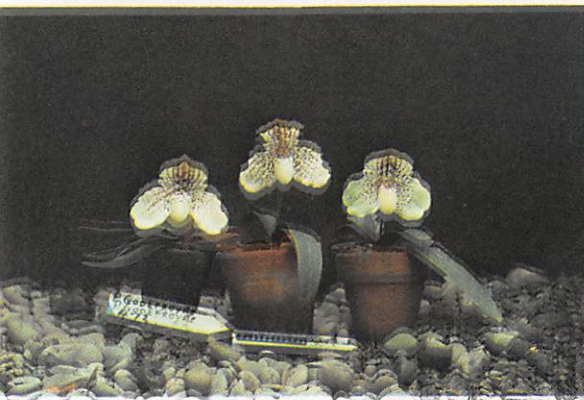
An Introduction to Paphiopedilum Species (Part 3)

Ronald Roy, Christchurch

Part 3 continues with the description of species from the Thailand-Malaya region.

Paphiopedilum godefroyae

Discovered by Murton on the Bird-
nest Islands in the Gulf of Siam about
1876 and introduced to Europe by M.
Godefroy of Paris. Grows close to sea
level in pockets of humus on broken
limestone cliffs where it is often exposed
to full sunlight for part of the day. Little
variation in temperature throughout the
year. Less rain in winter but always
humid. Plants variable in size and
coloration. Leaves usually narrow, dark
green mottled with paler green, under-
side densely marked with brown purple.
Scape short, to about 10 cm, and 1 or 2
flowered. Flowers of good substance,
white to pale yellow, fairly evenly
spotted with dark red on petals and
sepals. Lip almost free of spotting.
Intermediate in size and shape between
P. niveum and *P. concolor*. Intermediate
to warm growing, high humidity, good
drainage, water heavily in summer.
Flowers in spring.



P. godefroyae

Paphiopedilum niveum

Appeared in England in 1868 in a
consignment of *P. concolor*. Grows on
limestone islands off the coast of the
Malay Peninsula and in isolated sites on
the mainland as far north as southern
Thailand. Leaves to about 15 cm long,
thick and waxy, dark green with some
greyish green markings, undersides
densely spotted with purple. Scape
erect to about 20 cm, 1 or 2 flowered.
Flowers rounded about 7 cm across,
often with overlapping sepals and



P. niveum

petals. Pouch ovoid with a contracted
aperture. Usually pure white with a few
fine purple spots at base of petals and
sepals. Staminode white with a yellow
patch in centre. In cultivation *P. niveum*
should be kept on the dryish side in
moderate light conditions and inter-
mediate to warm temperature. A
beautiful little plant that is hard to keep
in good condition for many years.
Flowering season spring.

Paphiopedilum parishii

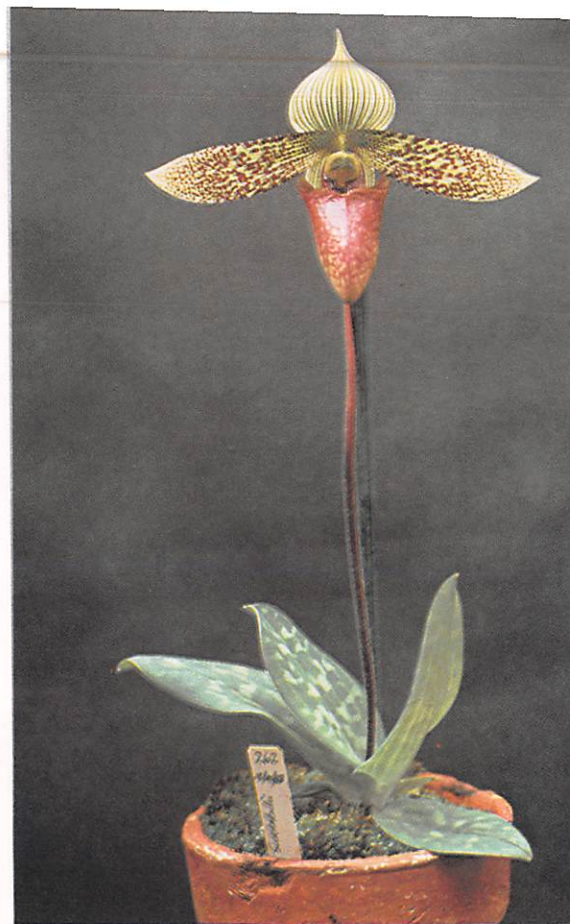
Discovered by Rev. C. Parish in 1859
in Moulmein district of southern Burma.
Introduced to cultivation by Low and
Co., in 1868. Occurs also in Thailand
and a closely related plant has been
reported from southern China. Grows
epiphytically low down on trees of the
rain forest in association with mosses
and ferns at elevations of 1000-1300 m.
Rainfall is high in summer but low in
winter when the night temperature can
drop to 7°C. Light intensity is low at
all times. Plants are large with thick,
leathery, bright green leaves up to 45 cm
long. Flower scape is arching, to 60 cm
long and bears up to 7 large flowers
which may all be open at the same time.
Flowers about 12 cm long, dorsal sepal
oblong, pointed at apex, pale yellow
with green veins, upper margins curve
forward, lower margins revolute. Petals
pendulous, ribbon-like, tapering to a
point, basal half undulate on margins,
green with a few blackish spots, distal
half reddish with darker veins, closely
twisted. Pouch wedge-shaped,
yellowish green. Glasshouse cultivation
is best at intermediate temperature.
Shade heavily and reduce watering in
winter. Flowering time summer.



P. parishii

Paphiopedilum sukhakulii

A comparatively recent discovery.
Found growing with *P. callosum* by Mr
Sukhakul in 1964 in northern Thailand at



P. sukhakulii

elevations up to 1000 m. A vigorous
growing species in cultivation, soon
developing into a nice specimen plant.
Leaves to 20 cm long dark green mottled
with light green. Scape to 30 cm long,
erect, single flowered. Flowers to 13 cm
across. Dorsal sepal heart shaped,
sharply pointed at apex, white with
numerous bright green veins. Petals
flat, widespread, tapering quickly to a
point, light green with darker green
veins and numerous brown-purple
spots, inner margins fringed with long,
dark hairs. Pouch long, wedge-shaped,
shading from green to red at aperture,
red veined. Grows best in intermediate
conditions. Normal flowering time
autumn but often flowers twice a year,
the second flowering being in the spring.