# Orchids IN NEW ZEALAND



Volume 11 - No. 1 July/August 1985

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# Orchids

IN NEW ZEALAND

**VOL. 11, No. 1** 

**JULY/AUGUST 1985** 

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ORCHID COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND

## **CONTENTS**

Registrar General's Annual Report, F.E.J.Mason   5
My Trip to London, M.B.W.Dove

# **ILLUSTRATIONS**

Disa Kirstenbosch Pride 'Janet'	15
Disa racemosa 'Waitara'	
D. Kirstenbosch Pride, D. tripetaloides, D. uniflora	15
Paphiopedilum acmodontum	18
P. argus	18
P. ciliolare	19
P. haynaldianum	19
P. hennisianum	19
Pseudocalochilus maunderii	25
Cymbidium Giselle 'Tainui'	27
Calochilus paludosus	. back cover
C. robertsonii	

#### FRONT COVER

Miltoniopsis vexillaria was previously known as a Miltonia. This charming species requires a moderate temperature, and forms the basis for much modern Miltonia breeding.

Grower: G. Stokell

Photography: J. Campbell

### **CONZED INCORPORATED**

# 11th ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH 1985

I hereby wish to present my first Report with the Orchid Council of New Zealand in its 11th year of operation.

This year has seen a number of changes and developments within the Council structure with reference to the 'Orchids in New Zealand', the judging system, and finally with the set-up proposals for the World Orchid Conference in 1990. With all members of the Executive adopting a positive and co-operative role I am sure we can plan with interest some strong developments over the next few years.

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

Although many Societies have stabilised in membership numbers, there is still the development of new Societies in outlying areas. There are now some 42 Societies formed in New Zealand and 40 of these are now affiliated to the Orchid Council of New Zealand. I wish to welcome the new Societies to the Orchid Council and trust that their affiliation helps to extend and develop the aims of the Council and those many Societies in establishing a strong and well recognised orchid base in New Zealand.

Our 1985 Conference in Wellington and then following this, the 13th World Orchid Conference in 1990 are two major functions to set our goals and attentions to, and with the promotion of these both internally and especially Overseas, New Zealand can now become a World recognised body on Orchid development and related interests.

With the assistance many Societies have already given our Conferences, I am sure that Societies will receive great benefit from their involvement and participation.

#### **FINANCE**

The funds for administration and the extension of Council's roles are and always will be of major concern. With forecasted budgets from our previous Executive, a budgeted loss of

approximately \$2,500.00 was envisaged in this financial year. The extent of operation the Council itself can be involved in with Orchids and Societies throughout New Zealand becomes rather limited with the funds available. This is of concern to myself and the Executive that the rapid depletion of Council reserves would take place over this year if major tasks were undertaken.

Application to the Ministry of Sport and Recreation was made and although an Administration Grant was not received, assistance was given to the 1985 Conference.

With continued awareness of the expenses and cash situation of Council's funds, I would congratulate our Treasurer, Mr Martin Clark, for the continual supervision and administration of our accounts. It is with his constant reviewing that we have managed to keep our funds in the situation as presented on our annual accounts. Without Martin's assistance this would have been an extremely difficult year financially.

#### ORCHIDS IN NEW NEW ZEALAND

Our National publication was perhaps the first major undertaking of change within the Executive this year.

With the retirement of our Editors, Mr and Mrs Graeme Boon, it was an opportune time to review the Magazine structure. Mr Keith Goodwin was appointed as Chairman of this

Committee, together with other members of the Executive, and a net work of representatives has been established to liaise and co-ordinate the Magazine on a national basis. In some areas this system has developed well and will establish excellent liaison between Societies and Council, and I am sure that in the newer areas this extension and development of the Magazine will certainly give a united voice throughout New Zealand. With the appointment of the new Editors, Nick and Liz Miller of Rotorua, I am sure we will see a change in the format and approach to 'Orchids in New Zealand', and I am confident that with their assistance and the co-operation of all member Societies, the value of the Magazine already established locally will be extended so that its benefits and recognition will be sought after by overseas readers as well.

I would like to pay tribute to the work and success that the retiring Editors, Mr and Mrs Graeme Boon, have given to 'Orchids in New Zealand'. The work that they have contributed over the past ten years has been a mammoth effort and I am sure that all Societies through New Zealand will congratulate them on their devotion in establishing the Magazine on the Orchid scene. must not overlook the efforts of the past Chairman, Mr Tom French, and the cooperation of our Printer, Mr Bill Deed, in their services offered and rendered to 'Orchids in New Zealand'. It is a mammoth undertaking as only those who are involved with Orchid publications will understand to produce a Magazine such as ours and any assistance by any member is a great value.

#### **JUDGING**

The Councils judging system is difficult to administer to ensure that a continual and satisfactory standard is achieved on a national basis. Through the efforts of our Registrar General and regional Registrars we are now able to stream-line the system and have now also established the major changes to

the judging rules and system. It is now time to redraft the standards and rules that are currently set down to incorporate the revisions and amendments so that an up-to-date handbook will be available to all judges and associates. It is of deep concern to me that the time in ratifying award procedures creates sometimes extreme delays in notifying awards but hopefully with the changes proposed this process should be rectified. I would like to mention that it is not always the judging system that is at fault as it also relies heavily on the co-operation of individual members and growers to complete their work to enable the system to operate efficiently.

Our Registrar General, Mr John Mason, has resigned his Office at the end of this financial year. We would like to express our gratitude for the efforts of John over the past ten years in establishing the judging system throughout New Zealand and especially his preliminary work with the establishment of training panels in the South Island. I am sure that the Registrar Elect. Mr Ron Rov Christchurch will continue and extend the work of the judging system in New Zealand so that the Orchid Councils Awards will be established as a recognised system on the world scene.

#### THE CONSTITUTION

The redraft of the Constitution has now been completed and the efforts of Mr Frank Askin in the rewrite of the Constitution are to be congratulated. Although no changes have been made from the originals, it was felt that a tidy and more presentable form could be set down, and with this work completed we will be awaiting final ratification at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

#### 1985 CONFERENCE WELLINGTON

Countdown has now begun for the 2nd New Zealand International Conference to be staged in Wellington in October. The Planning Committee representatives have met with the

Executive and outlined the full proposals and details of this most prestigious event. The Executive members have extreme confidence in the efforts of all of the Conference Committee and especially the services of the Secretary, Mr John Addison, whose task is coordinating all activities, which is an extremely difficult one. It is perhaps disappointing that all Societies are not taking an active part in the major display but I am also aware that costs are of a consideration to smaller Societies. would suggest perhaps that members of those smaller Societies not taking an active part can become a part of the Conference by amalgamating their service with other Societies present.

On application to the Ministry of Sport and Recreation, Council was granted the sum of \$2.500.00 towards the administration costs of the 1985 Conference together with underwriting of loss of up to \$2,500.00. Council would like to congratulate all Societies for their co-operation in extending the details of their members and also for the assistance both financially and administratively they have given to the Planning Committee. We look forward to a successful and enjoyable Conference where we may meet with fellow Orchidists from both New Zealand and Overseas where the sharing of knowledge and friendship is a major feature of such activities.

#### WORLD ORCHID CONFERENCE

With the success of our application to host the 13th World Orchid Conference in Auckland in 1990, we are confident that the Planning Committee established is well under way in formulating proposals and planning co-ordination towards this major event in New Zealands Orchid history. Already the New Zealand Orchid Society has contributed greatly towards the initial establishment and promotion and the tentative dates of the 5th-8th September 1990 have been set for this Conference. Representation has already been made in Santa Barbara and at the Royal Horticultural Society Centenary in

England for both the 1985 Conference and 1990. The assistance of all those who contributed to its success is most appreciated. Our congratulations must go to Mr Andrew Easton who has been appointed to the Executive of the World Conference Committee of the American Orchid Society. His appointment is independant of our 1990 event but we grateful to have him as a representative from New Zealand and I am sure that with his assistance and cooperation the events of 1990 will be recorded and correctly reported to all those on the Committee. The Planning also Committee will representatives to the World Conference body and W. Ross-Taylor and F. A. Ballard have made first reports in March of this year on the preliminary planning proposals. It is proposed that major promotion for this event will commence in Wellington in October and then continue through all major events throughout the world especially in Adelaide in 1986 and at the 12th World Orchid Conference, Tokyo, Japan in 1987.

#### LIAISON

Under the capable hand of Mr Tom French, continual information and liaison is now being undertaken on Councils behalf with the American Orchid Society, the Australian Orchid Council, Royal Horticultural Society, and the Orchid Club of South Australia. It is extremely important to follow the trends and progress of other recognised Orchid bodies and a sharing of such information and knowledge is of vital importance to us on the World Orchid scene.

#### SOUTH ISLAND

The establishment of many new Societies in the South Island has created perhaps a difficulty for Council in being able to extend its close contact with these new Societies formed. The assistance of Mr Ron Roy with this coordination and liaison has certainly helped Council in its administering task and I am sure that with further

representation this can be extended so that a keen interest in the South Island can be promoted and channelled on a national basis.

#### ORCHID RESEARCH

With the felling of many of our native forests in New Zealand, concern is given to the continuation of our native species in both their natural habitat and private cultivation. Council have undertaken, through the Orchid Foundation, steps to promote some research through local Universities and Institutions.

#### **GOODS AND SERVICES TAX**

Concern by many Societies over the proposed Goods and Services Tax was considered and the Council made a lengthy submission to the enquiry outlining the concerns of all the member Societies in New Zealand. administrative task in forwarding bimonthly returns together with the imposition made to the Sport and Recreation activities that the G.S.T. will incur being the major considerations.

#### CONCLUSION

This is my first term in Office and I can assure you that I have enjoyed the challenge as set down and I have undertaken to make a number of changes with the Executive so that administration tasks can be shared and that a new promotion can be established on the already sound base that the Orchid Council has within New Zealand. The co-operation of the Executive, together with many individuals outside Council, have made the task a considerably enjoyable one.

Final consideration must be given to the devotion and the efforts from Council's Secretary, Mrs Pearl Martin, and the Treasurer, Mr Martin Clark. Each year the work load required in the administration of Council becomes increasingly more demanding and the thickness of our current file has to be an indication as to the work undertaken by these two Offices. Without their efforts the activities of Council could not be undertaken.

We have an interesting and enjoyable recreation, together with the commercial developments in the New Zealand scene. I would like to further the co-operation of Council, individuals and Commercial Orchidists in the promotion and enjoyment of 'Orchids in New Zealand' and to continue towards a united effort from all personnel in 1990.

Trusting in an enjoyable future in our Orchid interests.

D. K. Bell President



#### **Orchid Council of New Zealand**

# Registrar General's **Annual Report 1985**

#### PERSONNEL:

Registrar General: Mr F. E. J. Mason Deputy Registrar General: Mr L. P. Parry

#### Regional Registrars:

Region 1. Mr R. Tucker

- Mr I. D. James
   Mr T. French
   Mr R. Wilkins

- 5. Mr B. Clark
- Mr F. Brett Mr M. McSaveney 7.

#### **Deputy Regional Registrars:**

Mrs V. Warren Region 1.

- Mr D. Bell
- 3. Mrs P. Boon
- Mrs J. Mendoza 4.
- Mr L. Godwin Mr S. Wray
- 6.
- Mr R. Roy

Regions 6 (Whangarei) and 7 (Christchurch) were appointed during the year under Report.

#### JUDGES' EXAMINATIONS

Since the last report there have been two set examinations for OCNZ Judges. One on 31st May 1984 in Christchurch resulted in a further five Judges being appointed and 12 were appointed after the Countrywide examinations in November 1984.

It is with regret that we record the passing of Harold Frear, one of the earlier members to become an OCNZ Judge. The total of OCNZ Judges is now 85.

#### **ASSOCIATE JUDGES**

Further interest in judging continues to be apparent. Numerous Society members have joined judge training groups and some have already been appointed as Associate Judges.

#### **JUDGES**

OCNZ Judges and Associate Judges have continued to assist at shows where requested. Twenty-two Award Applications have been received for the year 1984.

#### **ORCHID OF THE YEAR**

Mr R. Roy's Paphiopedilum bellatulum 'John' was chosen as 'Orchid of the Year' for 1984.

#### INTERIM AWARD CERTIFICATES

These certificates have now been received and have been supplied to all Regional Registrars.

#### JUDGING SEMINARS - NORTH ISLAND

Two Judging Seminars have been held during the period under report. Both were well managed and well attended. One further seminar is being arranged to take place on Queen's Birthday Weekend at Taupo.

#### JUDGING TRAINING - SOUTH ISLAND

Since my last Annual Report, training and general interest in judging has continued. The Oamaru training group visited Christchurch for a meeting and stayed overnight. One Judge from Christchurch took the Award Slides programme to Invercargill for demonstration. She also took, and explained some of the recommended reading material.

#### **APPRECIATION**

I am most grateful for the continued support and backup work of Mr Lew Parry as Deputy Registrar General. I am sure he will pass on a comprehensive set of records to the next Registrar General.

#### CONCLUSION

This is my final report as Registrar General and I thank all those who have assisted me constructively in this Office. I have advised the Executive that I am not available for re-nomination for the office of Registrar General.

F. E. J. Mason Registrar General

# NOTES FROM APOROSTYLIS



John McDonald flew into Taupo on the long weekend carrying his prize cat(t) in a specially ventilated carton. Seems fellow passengers were concerned for its well being, as it sat on his knees. John kept them in suspense about why it behaved so well! It was last seen sitting forlornly in a milk bottle with pollen removed — its carton used for transporting kiwifruit home.

Champion orchid at the Judges Seminar in Taupo was a stunning hard cane dendrobium — D. Rakpaibulsombat. Although it didn't get an award, its beautiful white flowers with magenta blushing on the petals took everyone's eye. As a larger plant with more flowers, it will certainly win more ribbons in the future. Owners were Trevor and Pearl Martin of Cambridge.

That intrepid orchid collector John Campbell of Canterbury turned up at Taupo minus his bushy beard. Seems the Auckland MAF made him shave it off when he arrived home from Honiara because it carried a new type of nit from the Solomon Islands! Hope they eradicated it, because he was seen sleeping amongst the orchid plants each night at the Judging Seminar!

Budding hybridizers who want to plant a pod or two but are put off by the lack of autoclaves or gauged pressure-cookers, should read of a new method of agar sterilization in the February 1985 AOSB, page 178. This method utilizes Hydrogen Peroxide as the sterilant and could revolutionize the flasking of orchid seed.

# ORCHIDS ARE FOR EVERYONE



2nd New Zealand
International Orchid Conference
8-13 Oct 1985

Orchid devotees! You simply cannot afford to miss this prestige event of 1985. It is being hosted in one of the most beautiful cities in the world.

INFORMATION FROM THE CONFERENCE SECRETARY P.O. BOX 5133, WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND

WELLINGTON
SHOW BUILDINGS
John Street
Wellington,
New Zealand.

# 2nd New Zealand International Orchid Conference 9-13 October 1985

Those who visited the 1980 Show in Auckland will remember the stunning displays of flowers, the excitement, the heady scent of massed flowers, . . . the Askin Odonts, that Tiger Sun! . . . and those overseas experts we usually only read of. Who could miss the next one?

You can still register for the Conference, although a small surcharge for late payment will be necessary, now. Or you can see the Show by visiting Wellington sometime during Thursday 10th — Sunday 13th October.

#### Displays

The many displays from Societies, both New Zealand and Overseas, and commercial firms, and the large commercial sales area, all in a spacious, central venue, sound tempting.

N.B. Societies – have you planned your display and started collecting props. yet? Time flies. Find your information sheet and READ IT!

Note that some props. such as foliage, plants and crates will be available at Wellington, but do not rely on unlimited quantities of everything.

NOTE – Setting up times: 9.00 a.m.-9.00 p.m. Tuesday 8 October 9.00-10.30 a.m. Wednesday 9 October

#### Souvenirs

Conference Souvenirs will be on sale at the Show.

#### Competition Classes

There is an extensive range of Show Classes – Groom your plants now.

Any information is available from the capable Conference Secretary, P.O.Box 5133, Wellington.

**CONFERENCE SPEAKERS** to look forward to:

Phalaenopsis Culture Mr Keith Andrew, England

Cymbidiums Mr Andrew Easton, New Zealand

Japanese Cattleyas Mr Makoto Hanajima, Japan

New Zealand Native Orchids Dr Brian Molloy, New Zealand

The Culture of Paphiopedilums Internationally Mr Dan Collin, New Zealand

Mini-Cattleya Types Mr Frank Fordyce, U.S.A.

The History and Hybridising of Odontoglossums in Great Britain Mr Brian Rittershausen, England

The Genus Dendrobium in Australia: Its Species and Hybrids Mr Wal Upton, Australia

Environmental and Nutritional Factors Affecting Growth and Development of Cymbidium Orchids Dr David Brundell, New Zealand

Colombian Miltonias Mr Frank Shride, U.S.A.

Japan: Host to the 12th World Orchid Conference Mr Makoto Hanajima, Japan

Orchids Australia 1986: 10th Australian Orchid Conference Mr Syd Monkhouse, Australia

These speakers will also take part in Workshops and Judging Seminars.

The Conference papers will be held on Thursday and Friday of Conference Week.

Full Conference Programme available from your Society or the Conference Secretary.

#### **CONFERENCE PROGRAMME**

#### - Dates and Times

#### **Tuesday 8th October 1985**

Registration desk open 10.00 a.m.- 4.00 p.m. in Wellington Show Buildings Setting up displays — venue will be open to exhibitors 9.00 a.m.- 9.00 p.m. Local tours available

#### Wednesday 9th October 1985

Registration desk open 10.00 a.m.- 4.00 p.m. Setting up displays — 9.00 a.m.- 10.30 a.m. Judging — 1i.00 a.m.- 6.00 p.m. Registrations preview and cocktail party — 6.30 p.m.

#### Thursday 10th October 1985

Registration desk open 10.00 a.m.- 4.00 p.m.
Public viewing — 10.00 a.m.- 10.00 p.m.
Information office open — 10.00 a.m.- 4.00 p.m.
Official opening — 3.00 p.m. (Governor-General)
Conference papers — 9.00 a.m.- 5.00 p.m. (lunch 12.15-1.30)

#### Friday 11th October 1985

Information office open 10.00 a.m.- 4.00 p.m.

Public viewing — 10.00 a.m.- 6.00 p.m.

Conference papers, Conference workshops — 9.00 a.m.- 1.00 p.m.

Banquet — 8.00 p.m. (Renouf Foyer, Michael Fowler Centre)

Local tours available

#### Saturday 12th October 1985

Information office open 10.00 a.m.- 4.00 p.m. Public viewing — 10.00 a.m.- 6.00 p.m. Local tours available

#### Sunday 13th October 1985

Information office open 10.00 a.m.- 4.00 p.m. Public viewing — 10.00 a.m.- 5.00 p.m. Judges Seminar — 2.00 p.m.- 4.00 p.m. Local tours available Show Closes 5.00 p.m.

#### Monday 14th October 1985

Dismantling - from 9.00 a.m.

Note: Published March 1985

Minor changes to times may be made.

# **The Editor and the Contributor**

George Fuller N.D.H. (N.Z.)

Compiling a magazine of this nature must be a formidable task, blithely overlooked by the average reader who, having paid his dues, expects topicality, originality and perhaps above all, punctuality. I paid my respects to the plight of our editor in an earlier issue and to all accounts, the plea for support bore fruit. Congratulations and thanks to those whose consciences were pricked and did something about it. Sympathies to those who were similarly motivated but couldn't bear to throw the switch and reach for a pen — you have a problem.

Being by nature a lazy sod and therefore having slumped over the years into what could be described as a thoroughly 'spoilt' approach to writing as a consequence of being so considerately handled by the Boons, I have a great deal to be thankful for and in paying a tribute to them for their ten years of sterling effort, it occurred to me that a few details of this particular editor — contributor relationship may be appropriate.

As I see it, an editor can be harangued from many quarters. Charged with the tasks of following policy formulated by some sort of committee, advertising must be sought to augment expenses, a vast amount of reading needs to be undertaken to ensure topicality, printers requirements and deadlines have to be met, but not least, regular contributors have to be kept alive and working and for some of them this means repeated jolting.

As with most relationships, everything starts off sublimely with nice promises and starry eyes and the contributor usually *lulls* the editor into a false sense of security by even submitting several articles in advance of a horrible trap called a 'deadline'. As with a 'bluff', a deadline seems to be one of those things one can take a chance on pulling only once with any level of safety.

Deadlines are predictable and are usually recorded and supplied by the editor to the contributor who in self defence invariably sets about

immediately both losing and/or forgetting them. Having the editor living in the same town has been a boon (whoops!) in my case for it has meant that on what I will swear is a diminishing time-span, I have been very politely reminded that my next article is required two days ago and they would be happy to pick it up if that helped!

Those pick-ups were interesting affairs and we had to arrange a 'drop'. Having already indicated the degree of my laziness, not surprisingly my letterbox was usually chosen. The highly confidential information was carefully deposited in unmarked brown paper envelopes and under cover of darkness. secreted in the letterbox. In the dead of night the Boons would appear, driving on the broad grass berm to arouse as little suspicion as possible. Though I never actually saw them on such occasions. I am given to understand that while on 'Orchids in New Zealand' missions, they drove a Porsche supplied by CONZED which is an abbreviation of 'Council of New Zealand Editorial Delinguents'. That would explain the tyre burns on the berm next day.

Alas! the link is broken with the Boon team taking a well-earned rest and I have to start hoodwinking someone else far away. My grateful thanks to you Graeme and Pam for your tolerance and co-operation. You have done a great job and maintained a journal of orchid matters related to New Zealand of which we can all be very proud. I sense some — and I'm sure its only a small portion — of the tremendous personal effort that has required. In retirement, at

least you won't have to read drivel like this and decide whether or not it should more appropriately grace the wastepaper basket.

And so to the future and learning a new set of tricks with Nick and Liz Miller. I have been over and visited them in their lakeland hideout and warmed to their new approach, despite the weather at the time. Having made all the familiar New Year Resolutions I'm

left wondering what will happen when the honeymoon is over and we have to find a new drop. I would like to retain my letterbox but the terrain between Rotorua and here is a trifle rugged, even for a Porsche and I've been wondering if I could con CONZED into trading it in on a helicopter!

Porsche – what Porsche? No-one told us about the Porschel Editors

# ZIE.

# **Cymbidium Oiso**

Grant Bayley

A recent article by George Fuller prompted me into some research. Maybe other readers can add information to this.

Cymbidium Oiso is apparently a hybrid between Cym. pumilum, a good flowering miniature, crossed with an "unknown" (no name) Cymbidium.

At an Orchid Show in 1984 I purchased a plant — mericlone — of *Cym.* Oiso 'Reynella', which should flower this spring — if the slugs and snails don't get the spike first. This mericlone originated from an Australian Orchid firm. Their latest catalogue includes a photo of *Cym.* Oiso.¹ It seems then that a variety of *Cym.* Oiso is still available, but is probably not the variety which Mr Henry Rudolph used.²

The next reference to look at is A. R. Koester<sup>3</sup> for awarded *Cym*. Oiso. Volume I has the registration date of 1956 by a person of the name Ikeda of Oiso, Kanagawa-Ken, Japan. Volume II of Koester, in the Japanese Awards Section, has *Cym*. Oiso 'Isochidori' variety which was awarded AM/JOS 1957 to K. Suzuki of Japan.

Sanders' Lists of Orchid Hybrids' reveals some interesting points. No Oiso Hybrids were registered until Cym. Hamazakura (Oiso x Alexanderi) in 1964 – Japan. 12 other hybrids were

registered between and including 1965 and 1970. Possibly the best known is Cym. Ming (x Rusper). Do you recall Cym. Ming 'Golden Halo'. Registered by Rod McLellan Co., of the U.S.A. Other American, British and Singaporian people registered hybrids using Cym. Oiso in this time period. 1971-1975 Sanders lists, has Mr Arblaster of Britain as the only registrant of the 4 Oiso Hybrids of this time. Featherhill Exotics in 1978 registered an Grammatophyllum intergeneric papuanum x Cym. Oiso. This would be interesting to see. During the 1981-1984 period 2 Australian Companies registered Oiso crosses.5

What seems to have occurred is, initially numerous crosses were attempted using Oiso, particularly in the U.S.A., then only in Britain, and now in Australia. Oiso crosses seem to produce pleasant miniature cymbidium hybrids always pleasing to add to one's collection.

P.O.Box 1381 Hastings

- 1 Valley Orchids 1984 Catalogue
- 2 Orchids in New Zealand, Vol. 10, No. 5, page 135, 1985
- 3 Koester A. R. The Cymbidium List I 1979 Koester A. R. The Cymbidium List II 1982
- 4 Sanders List of Orchid Hybrids Addenda 1961-1970, 1971-1975, 1976- 1980
- 5 New Orchid Hybrids supplied by the Royal Horticultural Society to The Orchid Review, Devon, Britain.

#### **CONZED NEWS**

At the Annual General Meeting of the Orchid Council of New Zealand, held in Rotorua on Saturday 22nd June 1985, the following officers were elected:

Patron: His Hon. Excellency Sir David Beattie, G.C.M.G., Q.C.

President: Mr Darrell Bell

Vice Presidents: Mr Ron Maunder

Mr Des Leahy

**Secretary:** Mrs Pearl Martin **Treasurer:** Mr Martin Clark

**Executive Committee:** 

Mr Ron Roy Mr Ted Thomas Mr Lyn Godwin Mrs Judy Coburn Mrs Edna Newton Mr Syd Wray Mr Roy Clareburt

The Capitation Fee was thoroughly discussed by the meeting, which

agreed, reluctantly, to raise it to \$1.50 per head.

A remit concerning the conservation of New Zealand native orchids was passed unanimously.

A remit concerning the sale of mericlone plants or flasks, derived from tested virus free plants, was discussed. It was recommended that growers be encouraged to ask for a suitable certificate that such material is derived from tested virus-free stock.

The Goods and Services Tax was discussed. Conzed will be making further representations on the subject.

Other matters discussed included a remit concerning Travel Discount Vouchers for Conferences and Seminars, and the International Endangered Species Act, which has given rise to some absurb situations.

The A.G.M. next year will be held in Whangarei.

# Society Information MEETINGS

#### **AUCKLAND ORCHID CLUB**

Meet 1st Tuesday of month. Secretary: D.K.Lilly, P.O.Box 21141, Henderson, Auckland 8. Phone: 836-6678.

#### **BAY OF ISLANDS**

Meet 2nd Wednesday of month. Secretary: Ms L. Rockell, R.D.1., Chaewai.

#### **BAY OF PLENTY**

Meet 2nd Sunday of month. Secretary: Mrs V. Burrell, 78 Cameron Road, Te Puke. Phone: 37-804.

#### **CANTERBURY**

Meet 1st Monday of month. Secretary: Mr J.G.Marshall, 6 Gamblins Road, Christchurch 2. Phone: 326-533 Ch Ch.

#### **CAPITAL CITY**

Meet 3rd Monday of month. Secretary: Mr B.E.Wilson, 77 Rodrigo Road, Kilbirnie, Wellington. Phone: 872-153.

#### CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA

Secretary: Mr R.Dix, 52 Lawrence Crescent, Manurewa.

#### **DANNEVIRKE & DISTRICT**

Meet 2nd Monday of month. Secretary: Mr L.N.Feck, 10 Trafalgar Street, Dannevirke. Phone: 7914.

#### **GOLDEN COAST**

Meet 2nd Monday of month. Secretary: Mrs Betty Norman, P.O.Box 373, Paraparaumu. Phone: 86-959.

#### GORE

Secretary: Mrs C.A.Donald, Maitland, R.D.5., Gore.

#### **HAWKES BAY**

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

#### **HIBISCUS COAST**

Meet 2nd Sunday of month. Secretary: Mr R.Moller, 7 Elizabeth Street, Orewa.

#### **HOWICK**

Meet 2nd Sunday of month. Secretary: Mrs J.O'Conner, 15 Haseler Crescent, Howick. Phone: 534-6562

#### **HUTT VALLEY CIRCLE**

Meet 4th Monday of month. Contact: Mrs C. Mills (President), 36 Pinney Avenue, Lower Hutt. Phone: 660-066.

#### ΚΔΙΤΔΙΔ

Meet 2nd Wednesday of month. Secretary: Mrs M.G.MacKenzie, 2 Miro Place, Kaitaia. Phone: 1531-R.

#### **LEVIN & DISTRICT**

Meet 4th Tuesday of month. Secretary: Ms R.Hardy, 14 Kent Street, Levin. Phone: 86-344.

#### MANAWATU

Meet 2nd Thursday of month. Secretary: Mr J.G.Jackson, 18 Hurley Place, Palmerston North. Phone: 83-348.

#### MARLBOROUGH

Meet 3rd Sunday of month, June, July, August. 3rd Thursday from September to May. Secretary: Mr P.J.Webster, P.O.Box 804, Blenheim. Phone: 81-003.

#### **NELSON**

Meet 3rd Tuesday of month. Secretary: Mrs M.A.Richardson, 103 Point Road, Monaco, Nelson. Phone: 76-487.

#### **NEW ZEALAND**

Meet 3rd Wednesday of month. Secretary: Mrs Nancie Bonham, 24 Coronation Road, Epsom, Auckland 3. Phone: 656-300.

#### NORTH OTAGO

Meet 2nd Thursday of month. Secretary: T. Stringer, P.O.Box 207, Oamaru.

#### **NORTH SHORE**

Meet 1st Sunday of month. P.O.Box 33-493, Takapuna, Auckland 9.

#### OTAGO

Meet 4th Wednesday of month. Secretary: Mr M.L.Young, 61 Argyle Street, Mosgiel. Phone: 6550.

#### **POVERTY BAY EAST COAST**

Meet 2nd Monday of month. Secretary: Mr Harold Bayram, P.O.Box 795, Gisborne. Phone: 75-372.

#### **ROTORUA**

N

Meet 1st Sunday of month. Secretary: Mr A. Holt, 59 Martin Street, Rotorua. Phone: 86-534.

#### SOUTH AUCKLAND

Meet 1st Tuesday of month. Secretary: Valerie Burnside, 74 Red Hill Road, Papakura. Phone: 298-3205.

#### SOUTH TARANAKI

Meet 3rd Thursday of month. Secretary: Mrs Una McCormick, P.O.Box 275, Hawera. Phone: 85-755.

#### **SOUTH CANTERBURY**

Meet 1st Tuesday of month. Secretary: Mrs J.A.Robinson, 28 Rose Street, Timaru. Phone: 47-892.

#### SOUTHLAND

Meet 1st Tuesday of month. Secretary: Mr Ray Dodd, Taiepa Road, R.D.9., Otatara. Phone: 330-648 Invercargill.

#### STRATFORD ORCHID CLUB

Meet 1st Tuesday of month. Secretary: Mr T. Signal, R.D.22., Douglas, Stratford.

#### **TARANAKI**

Meet 2nd Tuesday of month. Secretary: Mr A.D.Gray, 24b Alberta Road, New Plymouth. Phone: 88-836.

#### **TAUPO**

Meet 3rd Tuesday of month. Secretary: Mrs L.Galloway, 12 Rimu Street, Taupo. Phone: 86-481.

#### **TAURANGA**

Meet 3rd Tuesday of month. Secretary: Mrs Burgess, Maruia Place, R.D.6., Tauranga. Phone: 25-819.

#### **THAMES VALLEY**

Meet last Sunday of month. Secretary: Mr James Wood, 607 Brown Street, Thames. Phone: 89-759.

#### **TOKOROA AND DISTRICTS**

Meet 4th Wednesday of month. Secretary: Mr Ron Marshall, P.O.Box 252, Tokoroa. Phone: 65-677

#### WAIKATO

Meet 4th Tuesday of month. Secretary: Mrs J.A.Bell, P.O.Box 7101, Claudelands, Hamilton. Phone: 65-410.

#### WAIRARAPA

Meet 1st Sunday of month. Secretary: Mrs B. Nolan, P.O.Box 302, Masterton. Phone: 80-766.

#### WAIROA

Meet 2nd Thursday of month. Secretary: Mrs S.J.Tollison, P.O.Box 360, Wairoa. Phone: 7678.

#### **WANGANUI**

Meet Tuesday evening. Secretary: Mrs N.O.Wilson, 25 Taranaki Street, St. John's Hill, Wanganui. Phone: 55-092.

#### WARKWORTH & DISTRICTS

Secretary: Mrs J.N.Hoy, 3 Windward Terrace, Snell's Beach, Warkworth.

#### **WEST COAST**

Meet 3rd Wednesday of month. Secretary: Mrs Rose Carruthers, 114 Romilly Street, Westport. Phone: 8386.

#### WELLINGTON

Meet 1st Monday of month. Secretary: Mrs L.G.Cosnett, 35 Clyma Street, Upper Hutt. Phone: 288-429 Wellington.

#### **WHANGAREI**

Meet 1st Wednesday of month. Secretary: Janice Shayler, P.O.Box 1408, Whangarei. Phone: 50-219.



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

# **UPDATE ON DISA**

Since last writing on this subject there have been several developments which would be of interest to those keen to grow these colourful orchids.

I note that plants are already in flower from the distribution of seed and have been exhibited, indicating that there are some very capable growers. I have admired, with a twinge of envy, the faster growth of other people's plants but just recently had a moment of glory when a plant of *D*. Veitchii, which is a hybrid between *D*. uniflora and *D*. racemosa flowered in only twenty-two months from seed.

It is pleasing to note that one of the local enthusiasts has flowered D. racemosa for two seasons and though not as spectacular as D. uniflora, it has a spike approximately 1.2m (4 ft.) tall with flowers of a very distinctive form and colour which are readily traceable factors in the above hybrid. We have remade the cross several times, using differing forms of D. uniflora. Another hybrid that has flowered is D. Bettvs Bay which so far does not seem to be any improvement on good forms of D. uniflora - in fact one would be hard pressed to tell the difference in the specimens I have seen.

The same cannot be said for *D*. kirstenbosch Pride, however, for the plants we have so far seen range in colour from subtle salmony shades to rich oranges and scarlets with almost a fiery glow. Much of this comes from the influence of *D*. cardinalis, so aptly named, as if to compensate in some measure for the regrettable misnomer borne by *D*. uniflora. The other factors it introduces are elongation of the two

pendant sepals, increase in flower numbers and overall reduction in size. Fortunately, it seems to be equally as easy (or difficult?) to grow as *D. uniflora* and I can foresee it being a popular hybrid by virtue of its distinctive characteristics and good vigour.

To my knowledge *D. cardinalis* has not been flowered in New Zealand, though I can claim to have killed off several seedlings, successfully germinated. I look forward to seeing it through someones efforts, some day.

The other hybrid to flower locally this summer was *D*. Watsonii, which is *D*. uniflora x *D*. Kewensis (*D*. uniflora x *D*. tripetaloides) originally registered in 1900 but this plant is from a recent remake. The flower was elongated and closely resembled *D*. uniflora but did not excel it in any way though the colour was a new break.

#### Culture:

Some time back I suggested that readers should write in with their experiences either to me or the editor and in time I would make reference in this column to any notable features. Several have made the effort and I express my thanks but must confess to failure on my part to compile a report. This I promise to put right before very long.

One factor which comes through strongly is that many enthusiasts, indoctrinated into coddling their plants and tending to give them as much warmth and protection as they can afford fail to realise how hardy disa is. This plant will survive down to frost and to provide warmth is not the answer to germination but ensuring constant availability of moisture in some form certainly is.

As the plants develop it is possible to treat them very much as ordinary pot plants without having to stand them in trays of water, etc., but in this case, almost daily saturation seems necessary, even in winter.

Although in some respects they are sun-lovers if grown outdoors, the summer intensity undercover results in red coloration of stems and leaves and the best solution seems to be to arrange them under broken shade from other plants such as cymbidiums, through which the flower spikes can emerge, much as they would do in their native habitat. The ideal is hard to describe and the danger is that each person will interpret suggestions in their own way.

Perhaps it is better to indicate the response to extremes. If conditions are too bright, foliage and stems will assume bright red coloration and growth will become hard and retarded. If too

Grower: Pukekura Park Collection Photography: George Fuller

#### Below:

Two forms of *Disa* Kirstenbosch Pride showing distinctive hoods and elongated sepals from *D. cardinalic;* Centre: *D. tripetaloides* which has been used as a parent; Right: A selected form of *D. uniflora*.





Disa Kirstenbosch Pride :Janet' This clone has a rich fiery colour but others range into salmon pinks.



Disa Racemosa Waitara showing distinctive colouring and unmarked upper sepal (hood), two features which carry strongly in its hybrids. 1200mm tall (47 ½ inches).

shaded, or too warm, or a combination of the two, leaves will become elongated and strap-like and the plant loses its attractive compact rosette habit in searching for light and will become very vulnerable to fungal attack.

This raises another point. I have heard some horror stories about use of fungicides and insecticides. Do not take it for granted that materials used on other orchids are safe with disa. Make trials and take no risks — one has no back-bulbs to fall back on! If anyone has information, good or bad, I would like to know about it and will pass it on.

Feeding is something many query about and I think most are now so skilled in the application of soluble feed in weak forms that it is safe to suggest that disa will benefit also. I think all good disa growers liquid feed and ensure better results by not sticking to one type and in all cases apply in very It must be weak concentrations. emphasised, however, that feeding is not the complete answer to cultivation, be it in the case of disa or any orchid. If other factors are unsatisfactory. feeding will tend to hasten deterioration. Literature:

The booklet by DR. VOGELPOEL entitled 'Disa uniflora. Its propagation and cultivation' has now been published and is a very useful and informative 16 page illustrated reference. Details may be obtained through Disa Distributors, P.O.Box 19, Bergyliet 7864, Cape Town, Republic of South Africa.

Though I have not had a chance to study fully, I believe the latest, or a recent issue of the American Orchid Society Bulletin also features disa.

With plants now being offered for sale in various centres and presumably tens of thousands of seedlings coming along, this should be a very interesting summer.

Curator Pukekura Park



#### Further SPRING SHOW DATES

#### **AUCKLAND ORCHID CLUB**

#### Wonderland of Orchids

6th September, 10.00 a.m.-8.00 p.m. 7th September, 10.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m. 8th September, 10.00 a.m.-4.00 p.m.

Henderson Civic Recreation Centre, Ratanui Street, Henderson.

#### NORTH OTAGO ORCHID SOCIETY

14th September, 1.00 p.m.-5.30 p.m. 15th September, 1.00 p.m.-5.00 p.m.

R.S.A. Hall, Oamaru.

# TOKOROA AND DISTRICTS ORCHID SOCIETY

Display with Tokoroa Daffodil Society 19th September, 20th September

Tokoroa Memorial Hall.

#### **NELSON ORCHID SOCIETY**

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

Nayland College Hall, Stoke, Nelson.

#### DANNEVIRKE ORCHID SHOW

18th October, 2.00 p.m.-8.00 p.m. 19th October, 10.00 a.m.-4.00 p.m.

St. Johns Hall, High Street, Dannevirke.

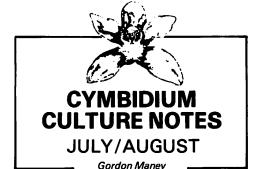


#### **CLOSING DATES**

for

Vol. 11, No. 2: -31st July

Vol. 11, No. 3: - 25th September



Once again the flowers are showing up even perhaps earlier than last year, and of course this has meant early attention to tying up and staking the flower spikes.

You must look round your plants at least two or three times a week, watching for aphids, slugs and caterpillars.

Every season thousands of precious blooms are ruined by these bugs. Thrips can also do a great deal of damage to blooms and plants. Orthene, a systemic insecticide, will get rid of thrips and aphids without any damage to the blooms. However, be sure and use a mask and protective clothing.

I cannot emphasize enough; before you use sprays that you may read about or hear from someone, check first with an experienced orchid grower; your Society will always help you. I'm mentioning this, because a hobbyist recently made up a mixture he had read about in an orchid magazine. Should be alright you'd think, well the result was complete disaster. If you do wish to try something new, try it on a plant you can afford to lose, that's always supposing you have a plant you don't mind losing.

This cold weather is always a problem with watering I know, but if it is very cold another day or so won't matter; the main thing is keep those walks and benches wet at all times, and when you do, spot water, that is only the plants that need it, and then never later than 10.00 a.m.; this allows the plants, that is the leaves to dry out before nightfall. Again I repeat keep the slug bait round those plants at least once a fortnight.

At present I'm flat out potting up small plants into their next size, 10 cm, and 10 cm into 15 cm pots. Community pots of plants are also needing attention. Cymbidiums never really stop growing. One soon learns to recognise when a plant needs shifting on and they certainly respond to this repotting. Young plants need feeding regularly all year round and if they have a little heat so much the better.

Good Winter Growing to you all and I hope you all have a few new seedlings and mericlones flowering for the first time, for surely this is part of the great pleasure one gets from growing orchids.

Mana Orchids 7 Harrow Place
Palmerston North

# THE EDITOR



Dear Sir,

May I through your magazine be allowed a few lines to pass on my thanks to those people who assisted with the First New Zealand National Orchid Judges' Seminar in Taupo during Queens Birthday Weekend.

I am most grateful to the various speakers who gave of their knowledge during the Seminar, to those Taupo Orchid Society helpers for averaging Judges' marks and to Avis Angel for helping in the kitchen also. Special thanks to Trevor Nicholls for arranging the venue and to Alistair McLachlan of Geotherm Exports Ltd., for the visit to his "sea of phalaenopsis", which was the highlight of the weekend. Thank you everyone for attending and bringing all those flowering plants and reference books with you.

I trust the 73 of you have gained a lot from the weekend and will be that much better equipped for judging in Wellington in October.

Yours faithfully,

R. L. Maunder (Organiser)

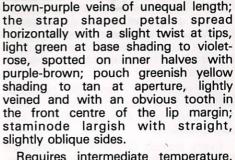
# An Introduction to Paphiopedilum Species

Part 4

Ronald Roy

In this article a start will be made on the species found in the Philippine Islands. Though some were collected and described well over one hundred years ago a number of others remained undetected by botanists until quite recently. As many of the islands are still largely unexplored 'orchidwise' we can hope that further new species will turn up in the not too distant future.

Paphiopedilum acmodontum. This orchid first appeared in cultivation towards the end of the 1960's but was not officially described at that time as its habitat was unknown. It is now recorded as coming from the Visayan area of the Philippines where it occurs at elevations of 1000-1500 metres. The plants that have been seen are remarkably similar in appearance of both leaves and flowers. It is a vigorous grower



Requires intermediate temperature. Flowers in spring.

Paphiopedilum argus Discovered by Gustav Wallis in 1872 in Luzon, the main island of the Philippines, and introduced to cultivation by Veitch & Co., the same year. Probably the most common of the Philippine slipper species and still widespread throughout the northern provinces where it grows on mountain slopes at elevations of 900-1800 metres. Named after Argus,



P. acmodontum

under intermediate temperature cultivation producing multiple growths of 4 or 5 leaves. The leaves vary from 12-20cm long and up to 5cm in width, the upper surface is tessellated light and dark green with dark green veining. Scape 20-25cm, single flowered, often appears in the half mature growth and develops with it. Flowers are very colourful, about 9cm natural spread. Dorsal sepal heart shaped, pointed at apex, white flushed rose at base,



P. argus

the 100 eyed monster of Greek mythology, in allusion to the many conspicuous warts, or eyes, on the petals. Leaves strap shaped, pointed 12-18cm long and 4cm wide, tessellated light and dark green. Scape erect to 40cm long, usually single flowered. Flowers large, to 10cm natural spread; dorsal sepal ovate, pointed at apex, white heavily striped with green and purple longitudinal veins; petals deflexed and spreading, narrowing towards the tips, margins ciliate, underlying colour white shading to rosepurple on outer third, finely veined with green and heavily spotted with blackish warts; pouch large, brown-purple, veined with green; staminode crescent Intermediate temperature, good light, flowering time spring.



P. ciliolare

Paphiopedilum ciliolare Introduced by Low & Co., in 1882 from the Philippines where it occurs in the northern islands, growing on lightly wooded slopes at about 600-900 metres. Forms a medium sized plant with leaves about 15cm long and 5cm wide, lightly veined and tessellated light and dark green. Scape about 40cm high bearing one large, rather striking flower with a spread up to 10cm. Dorsal sepal heart shaped, pointed at apex, white closely striped with reddish purple and sometimes green veins; petals strap shaped, often

deflexed and slightly recurved at tips, green at base shading to reddish-purple at tips, densely spotted with fine blackish warts over basal half and margined with long black hairs; pouch large, helmet shaped, yellowish brown heavily overlaid with darker veining; staminode kidney shaped. Intermediate to warm temperature. Flowering time spring-summer.



P. haynaldianum



P. hennisianum

Paphiopedilum haynaldianum

Discovered by M. Gustav Wallis about 1870 near Manila and introduced by Veitch & Co., in 1873. Dedicated to Cardinal Haynald, Archbishop of Hungary, an active supporter of the sciences. Widespread throughout the Philippines at elevations northern around 900 metres on open slopes of limestone hills. A large plant with strong upright habit. Leaves leathery to 30cm long and 5cm wide, dull green. Scape to 75cm long, arching, carrying 4 to 6 large, handsome, longlasting flowers which open successively but or 5 may be open at one time. Flowers about 15cm across petals and 10cm high: dorsal sepal elongated oval. upper half greenish white, hooded forward, keeled, lower half yellowish with large brown spots, side margins tinged rose and strongly revolute; petals spreading with a downward curve, the narrow, honey coloured basal half with large, brown spots, the outer half broader and suffused with violet-rose; pouch helmet shaped, vellowish with a variable amount of violet veining; staminode oval with a tooth at the base. Intermediate temperature, good light, flowering time spring.

Paphiopedilum hennisianum This plant became readily available from the Philippines in the late 1960's, often being supplied, erroneously, as P. ciliolare. Its commonly accepted name was not officially recognised until 1977. Plant is similar in appearance to P. ciliolare with 15cm tessellated leaves and a single flowered scape. Flower spread about 9cm; dorsal sepal heart shaped, pointed at apex, white with rose-purple suffusion at base, striped with green and purple veins; petals strap shaped, narrowish, spreading horizontally and often recurved at tips. white with purple mid-vein and parallel green veins, both margins spotted with small black warts; pouch greenish brown veined with darker brown. Intermediate temperature, flowering season spring-summer. 36 Seven Oaks Drive Christchurch 5

## BOOK REVIEW



#### "Lycaste and Anguloa -A Cultural Guide"

This slim paper-back volume is written by P. C. Tomlinson and published by the Wellington Orchid Society Inc. It joins two earlier works published by this enterprising society, one of which ("Cymbidiums — A Cultural Guide") has sold 12,000 copies.

The work totals sixty nine pages, with ten colour photographs, a number of black and white photographs and numerous pen-and-ink drawings.

A substantial proportion of the book consists of a detailed description of the various species of Lycaste and Anguloa. Much of this information derives from "The Genus Lycaste" by J. A. Fowlie.

The section on the culture of these plants is short, but excellent, and includes a valuable cultural table. The book concludes with a useful listing of all hybrids, involving Lycaste and Anguloa, registered up until early 1984.

For the price (\$5.00) this volume is hard to fault, and it provides an invaluable reference work to any grower of these attractive orchids. The author, and the Wellington Orchid Society, are to be congratulated on their enterprise in providing such a useful work at such a reasonable price.

N.C.M.

#### **TO SELL**

Green plastic coated steel 'Spike Stakes' 500-750 and 1000mm long, in 2.5mm or 3.2mm dia. material.

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Phone: Wellington 648-042

# Canadian Hospitality or Orchid Hunting in Canada

Ros Bickerstaff

(Continued from March-April issue)

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. Bert informed me that the *C. reginae* had been found there growing naturally, but the *C. calceolus* var. pubescens had been planted there some years before.

After this break we continued on our way northwards. Close to a road junction, Bert stopped. He thought that this was a possible spot to find specimens, as he had seen them here previously. Bert and I wandered off into Underfoot it was quite the bush. squelchy, making us pick our way carefully. We separated. Shortly, 1 heard a call from Bert. At the same moment. I spotted at the base of a bush a plant of C. reginae in flower. It was on a tuft of turf just above the marshy soil. As Bert called out again, I went through the scrub to where he was. found a large patch of these orchids. The womenfolk joined us so we took a few snaps of these rarities growing in their habitat with some of us as a back I told Bert of my find so we searched for more without avail. However, we did find plants Epipactis helleborine but there were no flowers, as vet, on them.

We returned to the car and went on further. A few miles along the road we saw a few yellow flowers growing on the cleared verges, so we stopped. Yes, they were some plants of *C. calceolus* var. *pubescens*. From here on we saw many patches of these orchids. They seemed more prolific in this area, for we saw hundreds of plants. I was told later that the Bruce is one of the few places where this species is found growing in quantity; not so with *C. reginae*, for this

species occurs spasmodically in isolated areas, and is relatively rare.

As we drove along we saw close to a rocky outcrop a bright orange flower. Bert thought it might be a Canada Lily, the National Flower of Canada, which is becoming quite rare. We stopped and went back to check. His surmise was correct. It was a small plant with two beautiful flowers somewhat resembling a tiger lily, a real gem! A few miles further on we saw two more plants in flower, each one close to rocks.

Nearer the coast we saw masses of dark-brown pitcher plants covering acres and acres of marshy ground. They seemed to be the most common flowering plant in this part of the Bruce, growing like a carpet over open swampy areas where trees were lacking. Each time we stopped in scrubby places we found colonies of *C. calceolus* var. *pubescens* all in flower. However, even when walking along bush tracks, and we walked many, we did not see any more *Cypripedium reginae*, the Showy Lady's Slipper.

In these northern parts the small lakes were plentiful and most scenic. Even the coastline had rugged rocky cliffs in many places, stark but beautiful, especially in the Dorcas Bay area near the northern tip. Here, we saw a group of Bruce Trail trampers cooling off in the calm water of a small isolated bay. Unfortunately I did not have my swimming costume with me or I would have had a dip too. It still had two days to go to the "longest day", a brilliant summer's day, yet, only a few weeks earlier they had had a blizzard with snow covering the ground!

We crossed to the eastern side of the peninsula, the Georgian Bay side, and here, too, we found many more clumps of the Yellow Lady's Slipper, as well as the ubiquitous pitcher plants. On this

coast there were quite a number of small creeks and the land seemed low-lying making it very damp underfoot. The slipper orchids seemed to need the protection of scrub, whereas the pitcher plants grew out in the open.

Bert asked me if I would be interested in seeing some plants of Cypripedium acaule, the Showy Orchid, even though they would not be in flower at this time of the year. Naturally, I was curious to see them and agreed. We backtracked for quite a few miles before he turned off the road into a side track. A short way along it he stopped and led me into the There in the scrubby undergrowth were some patches of C. acaule. Some had old, burst seedpods and most had insect-chewed leaves. examining them for a while, Bert suggested that we look at some Ram's Head Orchids, Cypripedium arietinum, and see how and where they grew, too. It was quite a distance to get to their locality, and what a secluded spot they were in!

We had to push through dense bush to an area where broken limestone rocks, knee to waist high, covered in moss and leafmould, appeared among the trees. There, in small cracks in the rocks were scattered a few small plants growing quite happily. Unfortunately, these orchids, too, were not in flower at this time of the year. How anyone ever discovered these plants in such a forlorn place amazes me!

Time was getting well on into the evening by now, so we headed back to Grimsby, having a meal at a wayside restaurant on the way. It was close to 11.00 p.m. before we turned into his driveway, and his car's computor -(yes, his car had a talking computor telling us that "all systems functioning") showed that we had travelled 663 km that day. thanking him for such a wonderful day, I asked him how he knew where to take me to see such wonderful sights and all those orchids in bloom. His reply staggered me; he had been up there the previous weekend to find suitable spots where plants would be in flower so that I would not be disappointed. What hospitality! 12 Enfield Road, Napier

# **COLOUR FUND**

Our readers have asked for more colour in the magazine, and as you see, we are using more colour!

However, COLOUR COSTS MONEY

Do you like colour?

Do you like colour enough to make a contribution to our COLOUR FUND?

We hope that Societies or individuals will be inspired to support the continued use of colour inside the magazine, by making donations earmarked for the purpose.

Several Societies have donated money for colour in the past, for which we are all grateful, as it provides our current colour. However, our funds will evaporate quickly if we use as much colour as we would like. We have already regretfully omitted some colour photos which could have accompanied printed articles, because of the expense.

Send donations marked 'Colour Fund' to the Treasurer, 'Orchids in N.Z.', C/o 3 Morriss Place, Cambridge. All donations will be acknowledged in 'Orchids in New Zealand'.

#### **WAIKATO ORCHID SOCIETY**

# SILVER JUBILEE WINTER SHOW

27th July 11.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m. at Te Tapa Racecourse, Hamilton

This is a special celebration Show. combined with a luncheon.

All other Orchid Society members are welcome, but please notify the Secretary in advance, for catering purposes:

Mrs.J. Bell Phone: 65-410 Hamilton



The Rotorua Orchid Society would like to thank all visitors for participating in the Seminar held in conjunction with the Conzed A.G.M.

The speakers and other visitors contributed to make an interesting and enjoyable day for us all.



# **MULTIFLORA PLANT TISSUE CULTURE LABORATORY**

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CONFIDENTIALITY ASSURED

# The Media Controversy No. 2

Jenenne Bradlev

#### **Nutrients**

The majority of media components used by orchid growers have a very limited capacity to hold nutrients for constant availability. In the soil the majority of nutrients are held by charges to the clay component. Clav is not generally used in container media as it looses its structure and tends to clog pores. To a much lesser extent humic material holds nutrients, e.g. peat.For orchids we must consider frequent applications of fertilizer to compensate for poor holding capacity. either be in the form of liquid mix or a slow release solid that provides nutrients at each watering. If the liquid runs straight through the large pores of your very open mix, the roots have to be ready for a quick drink or they will miss However, if your media has a percentage of small pores that will retain the liquid fertiliser, the plant can enjoy a more leisurely and prolonged feed. One must remember that nutrients have to be in a soluble form for uptake by the roots.

To put figures on an ideal container mix we can turn to a percentage ratio determined by scientists for a very wide range of plant species.

Air 20-25% Water 40-50% Solid 20-25% This is an air to water ratio of 1 to 2. This ideal media ratio provides sufficient water for plant growth while allowing good aeration for root respiration — even orchids!

The respective ratios of air, water and solid in your media can be easily determined by following the steps outlined below:

Materials needed: A standardized pot, a set of scales (the more accurate the better) and a sample of your *dry* media (oven dry for increased accuracy).

It is easiest to work in grams and cubic centimetres for simplification of calculations.

Repeat the test three times and average the results to eliminate minor deviations of each sample.

- 1. Determine the volume of a standard pot. T (3.14) × (average radius of the pot) × height of the pot i.e. T r<sup>2</sup>h.
- 2. Weigh the pot.
- 3. Weigh the pot filled with dry media.
- Weigh the pot and media filled with water (seal drainage holes with cellotape for the measurement).
- 5. Let the above situation drain for 24 hours.

Now warm up the calculator -

- 6. Weight of solids equals (3) (2).
- 7. The density of solid is (6) + (1).
- 8. The saturated weight of water is (4) (6).
- 9. The weight of water per weight of solid is (8) ÷ (6).
- The volumetric water content (saturated) is (9) × (7) + 1 g/cm<sup>3</sup> (the density of water).
- 11. Therefore the total volume of water is (10) × (1).
- Now if we subtract the volume of saturated water from the total volume, this leaves us with the solid content (1) – (11).
- 13. The next step is to separate the volume of air and held water which have up to now been combined in the saturated water content. The weight of held water is (5) (6).
- 14. The weight of water per weight of solid is (13) + (16).
- 15. The volumetric water content (available water) is (14) × (7) + 1 g/cm³.
- 16. The volume of water available is  $(15) \times (1)$ .

- 17. The volume of air can now be determined by subtraction (1) (16) + (12) = Volume of air.
- 18. To secure percentages

The % Air is (17)  $\div$  (1)  $\times$  100. The % Water held is (16)  $\div$  (1)  $\times$  100.

The % Solid is (12)  $\div$  (1)  $\times$  100.

Next issue we shall see how a variety of different media performed after a 12 month period, using mericloned cymbidium plants.

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#### PSEUDOCALOCHILUS MAUNDERII

of native orchid Favourites enthusiasts are two species of the genus Calochilus, C. paludosus and C. robertsonii. These orchids are remarkable for their beautiful lips, which are ornamented with lustrous red/blue hairlike processes. The popular name bearded orchid is very appropriate to these two species, as is the generic name Calochilus, meaning beautiful lip. Recently, however, a puzzling new form has been reported sporadically throughout New Zealand; never more than a single specimen on any occasion.

Growing to a height of 1.9 metres, this is a very robust species superficially resembling Calochilus robertsonii but lacking the elegant form and brilliant colouring of that plant. On the labellum of the new species, short, dull, black hairs are present in two broad bands at base and apex. The central third of the labellum, apart from wispy marginal hairs, is nude, brownish, with a prominent red/brown central callus flanked by a pair of sunken pores which may prove to be nectaries. A remarkable feature is the lower portion of the lip, which seems to be in almost The reproductive constant motion. on the column. structures completely concealed by the basal mass, of dense black hairs, but are presumed to be normal for the genus.

This anomalous species can not reasonably be included within the present limits of the genus Calochilus, so a new monotypic genus Pseudocalochilus has been created to accommodate it. The specific name recognises the constant endeavours of Mrs R. L. Maunder of Tauranga who has taken a particular interest in this wierd "Beardie", and to whom all future sightings should be reported.

"Irwinia jamesbruceana"



Pseudocalochilus maunderii

# **MY TRIP TO LONDON**

M. B. W. Dove

As the coach travelled south we gazed out on a gently rolling landscape, picturesque homes, and busy people. We felt very happy to be where we were. But this was not another trip to Flock House to learn how to grow orchids but a trip from Cambridge, England, to London to attend the International Centenary Orchid Conference of the Royal Horticultural Society. We pinched ourselves to make sure we were not dreaming and settled back to watch the countryside, which was still covered in many places with snow from a recent fall.

Looking at the English countryside now is just like looking at it on the calendars. Lovely rolling countryside, villages with thatched roofed houses, narrow streets and very friendly people. We are living in a 120 year old home, made of stone but very warm. Our first impression of it was of stepping into a doll's house but with the density of population here homes are very close. The garden has crocuses and bulbs struggling to come through the snow and frost so definitely not the climate to grow phalaenopsis (or so I thought).

The 70 miles trip by coach to London takes approximately two hours — one hour to do 50 miles on the motorway then one hour to wind through the outskirts of London to the central coach station.

We booked into a bed and breakfast, twenty two pounds per night, and then took a double decker London bus for a one and a half hour sightseeing tour of London. This took in most of the major sights of London and we would definitely recommend it for first time travellers to the city. Travelling around and having the different points of interest explained makes one realize just how young a country we live in.

On to the Show itself, and to see whether Britain is capable of producing all those lovely orchids we are accustomed to. She can, and how! I have many cymbidiums at home, which are grown for commercial use, but love the phalaenopsis and the challenge to grow them well. I have a long way to go.

On walking into the hall and looking across the displays we were disappointed because it appeared to be lacking in size. Possibly this is because shows dominated are cymbidiums and being bulky plants they can soon fill a display space. However, what was apparently lacking in numbers was certainly ot lacking in quality. The colour and size of the blooms combined with well grown plants left nothing to be desired. And phalaenopsis! Never for a moment had we expected to see such numbers or size of blooms and thought they surpassed those that we had seen in Brisbane.

There were displays from many English counties, Jersey, Germany, France, Holland and Italy. Wandering through these beautiful displays we were wondering with trepidation what New Zealand's was going to be like but we were not disappointed. This was a table display set up by and next to Gevserland Orchids, with credit to Mr A. Easton for what he achieved. The plants by the Thursday were beginning to droop a little with very minor damage to some but there were more varieties and numbers represented than on some continental or local displays. One award was achieved from a North Shore Society member, Miss Molly Clark.

Stands to catch our 'eye' were:

Ratcliffe Orchids, with magnificent hybrid and species *Paphiopedilums*, *Phalaenopsis*, *Cattleya*, *Sarcochilus* and other genera. Very well set up and displayed as well as quality plants.

McBeans Orchids, a large stand with some beautiful Cymbidiums, large well



Cym. Giselle 'Tainui' AM/RHS The award was given to Miss Molly Clark's plant at the RHS Centennial Show.

Grower and photographer of this specimen: Ron Maunder

grown hybrid paphs and a beautiful collection of *Odontoglossum* and *Odontioda* seedlings.

Eric Young Orchid Trust, with what must be the largest phalaenopsis blooms I have seen plus many large bloom paphs and cymbidiums.

Butterfield Nurseries, with a stand which would be about 2½m x 1½m and consisted solely of *Pleiones*. I have never seen so many pleiones together and it made a very effective display.

There were very few *Dendrobiums*, two plants perhaps of 'nobile', one or two kingianums and certainly not the massed displays that we saw at Brisbane. We did not see any Vandas, with limited numbers of Cattleyas, Disas, Masdevallias and Miltonias.

The commercial sale section was in a separate hall not far away and like the main display would not be of the size we were expecting. Prices were an eye opener and a quick sample would be:

Flasks of cymbidiums — Forty pounds (\$100.00) for 20 but there were also some cheaper.

Single plants in spike — to Thirty pounds (\$75.00).

Phalaenopsis in spike — Ten pounds to Thirty pounds (\$25.00 to \$75.00).

Zygopetulum not in spike — Ten pounds (\$25.00).

Paphs in flower — Eight pounds to twelve pounds (\$20.00 to \$30.00).

There were some special phalaenopsis plants, one plant with a 3" leaf to a small test-tube-like flask and priced at thirty five pounds to one hundred and thirty five pounds (\$87.00 to \$345.00).

So back to our room; very very cold and very tired.

London is a big, big city and is certainly worlds away from our home in Opononi. We did not attend any lectures so back to Cambridge next day to continue our holiday in this wonderful country.

C/o Post Office Opononi

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325

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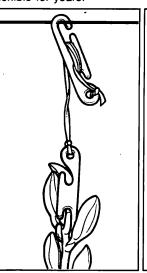
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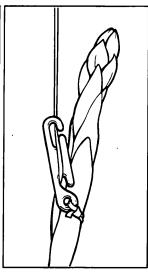
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## **PORTRAITS OF NEW ZEALAND ORCHID SPECIES**



Calochilus paludosus
Photography: Bob Goodger

# Calochilus robertsonii Photography: Bob Goodger



The Genus Calochilus, sometimes referred to as "Beardies", has three New Zealand species, all of which also occur in Australia. They grow mostly in the North Island, in scrub to scrubby swamp areas, and flower spring to summer.

The generic name means "beautiful lip", and continuing the facial theme, a tongue-in-cheek article in this issue discusses a variation on this genus.