

Orchids

IN NEW ZEALAND



Volume 11 - No. 3
November-December 1985

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Orchids

IN NEW ZEALAND

VOL. 11, No. 3

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1986

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FRONT COVER

Bulbophyllum lobbii. This small growing species, originating in South-East Asia, requires some warmth in winter. The 10cm flowers are unusual and attractive.

Grower: S. Wilson

Photography: J. Campbell

EDITORIAL

The International Orchid Conference in Wellington in October was a great success. A combination of interesting speakers and an outstanding Orchid Show made the occasion one not to be missed. The organisers are to be congratulated. Auckland will have its work cut out to do better for the World Orchid Conference in 1990.

In this issue we have commentaries on the prize-winning plants and displays at the International Show; we plan further Show observations on particular plant groups for the first two issues of Volume 12, next year. We hope those of you unable to visit the Show will be able to absorb some of its atmosphere and stimulation from the lucky participants, in this way.

Unforeseeable delays most regrettably held up the last issue - frustrating for us and for you. We apologise for the late production of this issue but it seemed worth waiting to include Conference material. Our resolution for the New Year should be obvious.

On a more sombre note, over the last few weeks, three figures, well known and liked in the New Zealand orchid scene, have passed on. They will be sadly missed. Their obituaries appear in this issue, and the Editors sincerely hope that it will be a long time before we again have the need to devote so much editorial space to such a sad topic.

2nd New Zealand International Orchid Conference Wellington 1985

President's Viewpoint

D. K. Bell

I extend on behalf of all New Zealanders our congratulations to Mr Wes Ross-Taylor - Conference Chairman, and his Planning Committee on the successful staging of the 2nd International New Zealand Orchid Conference. Mention also must be made of all Wellington Orchid Societies for their combined effort and support to stage this prestigious event, an event which is completely new to the Wellington area.

On inspecting the Show venue on the Monday evening I questioned whether setting up and staging a show of a world standard would ever be possible. The efforts of all those participants on the Tuesday overcame any doubts and the aspirations of the Planning Committee were certainly realised.

It is a great morale booster to see Societies and people working together under difficult conditions in setting up displays. There was never a dull moment as co-operation and friendship was extended during the whole of the staging of the show.

Our congratulations must go to all participants and Societies in staging such a prestigious show. In an observation from those at Auckland in 1980, the development and quality of Orchid growing in New Zealand has far surpassed expectations and overcome any doubts that some Orchid growers had, both in New Zealand and overseas, of our ability to expand at such an alarming rate. In discussions with many of our overseas visitors the standard and quality of the show was certainly something to be inherently proud of, and I am sure that the memories of

those who travelled home will be shared with their friends. I am certain that many overseas Orchidists will wish to visit and share our interest in Orchids here in New Zealand.

The very professional attitude of our overseas speakers certainly impressed all those who attended the lectures. We were extremely fortunate to have speakers of this calibre in New Zealand at one time and we can indeed look forward to further visits by these distinguished people, together with many of their friends and fellow experts. They assured us that their impressions of New Zealand were extremely high and they would convey to others who had not visited New Zealand that they should make that part of their future Orchid calendar. Our own New Zealand speakers were of high calibre and their lectures were well received; the overseas visitors were certainly impressed and enthused by their addresses.

At Orchid Conferences and Shows, the participation and friendship shared by those attending is probably the highlight of such events, but without official functions the professional setting to the Conference would not be possible. The official cocktail party, the official opening by the Governor General of New Zealand, followed by the banquet and prize-giving on the Friday evening, were the features of this section of the Conference.

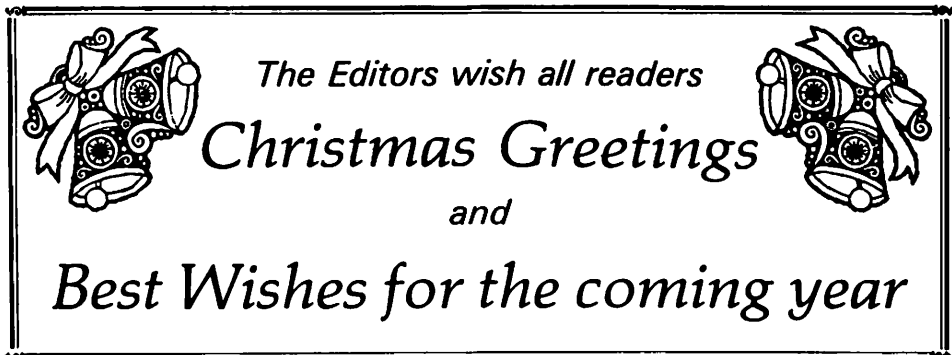
Participation and enjoyment from all those 400 guests at our banquet where many of our local people mixed and shared their knowledge with overseas visitors will certainly impart good friendship to all those who have returned home from overseas.

In the final closing of the Conference it was extremely pleasing to see the participation of the Wellington public together with those who had travelled from further afield in New Zealand. The congestion in the Show hall on the Saturday and Sunday I am sure gave all those registrants and Societies who staged the displays, the thrill of personal achievement in being able to share their interests with those persons who may only be keen observers. There can be many impressions gained by these visitors at such a prestigious Orchid Show and we can only assume that the interest created by the 2nd International Conference Show reflects the quality and enthusiasm of Orchid growers throughout New Zealand.

The enthusiasm and willingness of all Societies enabling them to create such pleasing and professional displays can only help in achieving the goal of successfully hosting the 13th World Orchid Conference in 1990.

Congratulations to you all.

*President
Orchid Council of New Zealand*



2nd New Zealand International Orchid Conference

THE DISPLAYS

Ron Maunder

Well, its all over at last. The long awaited Conference and Orchid Show is now history, and those beautiful displays dismantled and the battered and bruised plants are home on the bench licking their wounds. What a wonderful Show it was! I'm sure most society displays had improved on their efforts at the 1st N.Z. Orchid Conference in Ellerslie in 1980. Much more elaborate displays were evident this time, I thought. No doubt we will see even better at the 1990 13th World Orchid Conference in Auckland!

I have been asked to comment on the displays at the Conference for this magazine. Not an easy task, as I couldn't cover them all in even two or three articles! Perhaps I will be excused if I cover those displays which won prizes and just a few others. There will be points I didn't notice or forget to mention. No hard feelings, please!

The Best Large Display by a N.Z. Society was won by the Capital City Orchid Society. This display took the rear part of the combined Wellington/Golden Coast/Hutt Valley and Capital City societies island, as you entered the hall. It was probably one of the few that successfully used the conference theme "Orchids were for Everyone". A section of a Victorian-era lounge revealed Persian carpet, Grandfather and Grandmother chairs, chaise-longue, spinning wheel, an old crank style wall telephone and Victoriana pictures on the walls. Orchids were tastefully displayed on the mantelpiece, side tables, and elsewhere throughout the room. Out through open stained french doors was a garden of orchids, with the semi-circular perimeter of the display consisting of an array of cymbidiums, cattleyas, oncidiums and dendrobiums nicely presented. It was fascinating to see this display erected beforehand, especially watching their paperhanger, complete with paste, brush and table! I didn't see many prize certificates for individual plants in this display but it just goes to show that you can win displays without top quality plants, as long as you have the ideas and presentation.

Another display which won without top quality plants was that of the Kaitaia Orchid Society, which won the **Most Original Display of Mixed Genera**. For a new society to win this prize was quite a coup. The 3m x 3m display created a lot of interest with the theme 'Kaitaia is discovering Orchids', and depicted a background of outer space with stars, comets and planets on a dark blue sky. On either side were imitation lunar mountains and in the centre a spacecraft had landed and two 40cm high spacemen were collecting orchids from the sandy wastes. Scattered around the site were about 25 odonts, miltonias, *Dendrobium Kingianum*, pleiones, and paphs - all small plants to suit the scale. Inside the spacecraft a few blooms of *Sarcochilus hartmannii* could be seen peeping out. Thanks, Kaitaia. I'm sure you had a lot of fun planning that display!

The Best Small Display by a N.Z. Orchid Society was won by the North Shore Orchid Society. This 3m x 3m display, which had three sides exposed to viewers, was built up like a hill and covered with a range of orchid genera. Plants included mini-cymbidiums, phalaenopsis, dendrobiums, bright coloured cattleyas, and a specimen *Ansellia* plant which received a cultural certificate. These were surrounded with quality cymbidiums. On the end or front, the hill was hollowed out slightly to represent a cave and a large witch sat tending her cauldron and casting spells - one of which was an exceptionally well flowered *Dendrobium miyakei* (Taiwan) covered with brilliant shiny magenta

blooms. In pride of place above the cave entrance stood the Grand Champion of the Show - the large flowered immaculate white *Lycaste Macama* x *Koolena*. This lovely plant is owned by Lil Crouch of Linwood Orchids and earned one of the three AM/OCNZ awards in the show.

Best Display by an Overseas Society went to the Orchid Society of South Australia. This of necessity consisted of cut spikes in water tubes which in the case of their quality cymbidiums were tied to locally provided seedling plants and looked like the real thing. A pathway lined with 20cm high slab retaining walls led the viewer up into the exhibit for closer inspection. Plants and spikes were arranged in tiered beds of coarse bark in groups of genera. Some lovely paph species and primary hybrids were on display and several excellent large lycaste flowers plus a lovely golden yellow antelope dendrobium spike. Prize tickets were received for best yellow phalaenopsis, best paph alliance, champion paph alliance and best paph species. To myself who had spent several years amongst orchids in Australia, the "piece de resistance" in this display was those striking little cut spikes of Aussie natives. Such beauties as the green-comb spider orchid - *Caladenia dilatata*, the donkey orchids - yellow *Diuris aurea* and purple *Diuris punctata* and several *Pterostylis* species. The beautiful *Caladenia* outlasted the others and was still holding well at the end of the show - perhaps a potential cut-flower. Shh! Don't tell the conservationists! Thanks Aussies for cutting off all your lovely spikes and putting on such a quality display for us.

L & R Orchids were the winners of the **Best Display by a Commercial Grower**. Their exhibit took one end of a small island shared with the N.Z.O.S. Two cylinders or columns of reinforcing weld-mesh of approximately 60cm in diameter sat vertically on coarse bark beds on the floor, some 1.5m apart. These cylinders were lined inside with

royal-blue cloth to set off the beautifully grown and flowered species which hung around the cylinders. One cylinder of about 2m high was hung with mainly South American genera and the larger 3m high one with mostly Asian and Indian genera. A large *Epidendrum cinnabarinum*, plant of the super-sized and orange-flowered 'Palolo' strain, sporting seven flowering heads, sat at the base, with groupings of paphs such as *sukhakulii*, *delenatii*, *hirsutissimum*, *villosum*, *argus* and others. Groupings of masdevallia species, laelias, schomburgkia and *Sl. Jinns* were also around the base. The display was full of interesting species, yet not too crowded. One gem I noticed was a pretty white and green albino form of *Miltonia warscewiczii*, with four flowers.

One must mention at this point the magnificent non-orchid display which the **City of Wellington Parks and Reserves Department** staged in the centre of the hall. This large central island consisted of a mass display of colourful potted plants, laid out in segments with ferns, variegated coleus, and various potted shrubs such as *Ficus* species. Central was an elongated pool with a fountain playing at either end and spanned by an attractive brown stained wooden bridge from which neatly kept paths led through the garden layout. At one stage I overheard an English couple from Auckland saying how much it reminded them of 'our Chelsea Flower Show'! A very commendable effort.

Best Display by Joint or Individual Growers went to George Fuller of New Plymouth's Pukekura Park. Naturally this was about his current love-affair with the South African Disas. Anyone who stopped to investigate this educational exhibit would soon learn how easy it is to grow this terrestrial beauty from seed. The methods George and his associates use to raise *Disa* from seed to flowering were all explained with labels and signs and trays of seedlings through their various stages. Two plants with out-of-season scarlet flowers were also on display as were some

colour slides showing the excellent clones raised to date. These slides later proved useful to registrants who missed seeing them at George's lecture - when the projector broke down at the critical moment!

Another display which I suspect was largely the inspiration of George Fuller was the one on **Cymbidium Breeding** which was attached to the Taranaki Orchid Society display. Here viewers were shown many of the rare cymbidium species with flowering examples of them and their hybrids. I jotted down such names as *lowianum*, *Coningsbyanum*, *eburneo-lowianum*, *insigne*, *insigne 'album'*, *devonianum*, *Langleyense*, *eburneum*, *pumilum*, *lowianum 'concolor'*, *lowio-grandiflorum*, *tigrinum*, *canaliculatum*, *ensifolium* and many more. Many plants had come from all over New Zealand. A large family tree chart showed the background parents back to the species of the modern chocolate/bronze *Cym*. Kiri Te Kanawa, and other information showed how plants are named. Several selfed seedlings of the controversial species *l'Ansonii* were on view to prove it is indeed a species and not a hybrid as much orchid literature suggests. A truly fascinating and educational exhibit, which was essential 'reading' for our judges and budding hybridizers. I saw a number of overseas registrants and speakers entranced by it and recording it on film! Well worthy of the AM the N.Z.O.S. granted it.

Well, we can't all be winners! I don't know on what criteria the judges based their decisions but I don't envy them their job!

One which was second in the **Most Original Display** section was one of two displays by the N.Z.O.S. The one which caught my eye and the judges too was their White theme display. This 3m x 3m display was strikingly different from anything else in the hall. The whole display consisted of white flowered orchids in various tall containers or on stands with some black below and behind to set off the flowers and stands.

Quality white cymbidiums, white *Sarcochilus hartmannii*, white cattleyas such as Angel Walker, *Dendrobium liquiforme* and *D. lineale 'alba'*, *D. Yukadaruma 'King'* and a prize winning white phalaenopsis were among the plants used in this very artistically arranged display.

Another second place getter was the commercial display by **South Pacific Orchids of Napier**. This was a garden-type display at the end of a large central island group. Large specimen plant cymbidiums were used and beds of beautiful Miltonias or Miltoniopsis caught my eye. A large 2.5m high white painted wooden dovecote containing three live, white cooing doves gave a really relaxing and cool spacious garden effect.

The **Waikato Orchid Society** who came second in the small display section used a 3m x 3m replica of an old cowshed to contain their exhibit. As we have come to expect, their display probably contained more prize winning plants than any other, and would almost certainly qualify for the most plants per square foot! Well weathered timber with lichen was used for yard rails and old timber doors with rusty hinges, etc., made an authentic looking building. Old cream cans adorned with bright red, yellow and orange mini catts on top, an overturned one with white styrene foam 'milk puddles' engulfing several sphronitis were among the props used to set off the plants. Among the separator room gadgetry of milk coolers and vacuum pipes and around the old valve radio were quality Yamamoto dendrobiums, phalaenopsis, cattleyas, mini-cymbids and cymbidiums. Several large specimen cymbidiums were obvious, including a Touchstone 'Mahogany' with around 20 flower spikes. There were several clones of the lovely new yellow Hallmark (Wallara x Balcariga) cross, a nice green Jack Hudlow (High Sierra x *devonianum*) the sparkling white Rae James 'Cameo' AM/OCNZ, a lovely ice-green Hope Ranch 'Cold Springs' and a nice

Bulbarrow 'Will Scarlett'. The gem of their display had to be the *S/c*. Alchemist 'Magic' which gained one of the three coveted show AM/OCNZ awards for its owner and hybridizer Mr Jim James of Hamilton. This 'pumpkin orange' mini-catt of world class was shown in colour in Mr James article in the previous issue of "Orchids in New Zealand". Most of the plants mentioned above received top prizes in their various sections.

If there was one display which created the most discussion, it was undoubtedly the **Tauranga Orchid Society** one! This large display received a Meritorious Award of Artistic Merit and occupied the broad end of a central island, facing the entrance. The first impression was of great gnarled tree trunks festooned with beautiful orchids. A real orchid paradise indeed! In the background were 2m high rock cliffs with various orchids growing out of ledges and a painted rocky stream cascading out from amongst the cliffs. The huge foreground trees - one fallen over - were decked with phalaenopsis, coelogynes, nobile dendrobiums, pendulous mini and madidum type miniature cymbidiums, and other gems. Paph species and primary hybrids and laelias, etc., adorned the cliff faces. Around the stream and under the tree trunks a thick layer of dead leaves covered construction details. This fascinating construction of paper, paint, wire netting frames and hidden supports with

plant containers let in to tree and cliff and hidden by cleverly placed moss and ferns had everyone entranced. Many, many hours of work had undoubtedly gone into the construction of trees and cliffs. No wonder it was trucked home again by furniture van - some say to be hired to other groups!

By now the editors have probably given up trying to precis my story and are about to toss it out! I haven't mentioned many displays yet and I guess I could go on and on to try to give the atmosphere the whole show created. Cymbidium buffs no doubt gravitated to the far end of the hall to see one of the finest collections of modern cymbidiums ever staged in New Zealand at Norm Porter's display or to the fabulous madidum hybrid display (with many other genera) of Geyserland Orchids. Out the back the **New Zealand Native Orchid Group** had their display of plants, herbarium material and beautiful botanical drawings - a pity they just didn't fit into the main display hall, where they could have attracted more attention.

If you didn't make the big show this year, keep active and eat good food so you'll be around at the big one in Auckland in 1990 - only five years away!

Or did I hear there might be a 3rd New Zealand Orchid Conference in 1988 - as a trial run?

'What a fine Show'.

2nd New Zealand International Orchid Conference Wellington 1985

"Orchids were for Everyone"

Syd Wray

The 2nd International Orchid Conference has ended and now we reflect on the plants and more importantly the friendships we made. Congratulations to all those winners and placegetters. This show must be billed as the greatest orchid show ever put together in New Zealand.

Mrs Lil Crouch of Waimauku came up with the **Grand Champion of the Show** with *Lycaste Macama* 'Doris May' x Koolena. This plant had two flowers, pure white, straight spikes 600mm long, width of flower was 125mm. Also gained an AM/NZOS.

Reserve Champion of the Show was *Paphiopedilum* St. Swithin's 'Wellington' with three lovely flowers. It also gained an HCC/NZOS. The flowers were 250mm across the petals and it was grown by Frank Askin.

Other plants that stood out were *Lycaste brevispatha* with five flowers 55mm across, rose spotted over white, lip rose with greenish petals and sepals. Unfortunately there appeared to be no class for this species but it was truly a magnificent specimen.

Ansellia africana - this plant gained a cultural certificate and rightly so with 15 spikes, 188 flowers and 135 buds, dull greenish/yellow with multiple brown irregular spots, a superb specimen.

Best White and Champion cymbidium was Rae James 'Cameo' grown by Jim James of the Waikato Orchid Society. It also received a bronze award from the Cymbidium Society of America. Clean white flower, red edging on bottom of lip with light yellow centre. Fifteen flowers of perfection.

Best decorative miniature cymbidium was Touchstone 'Mahogany', again in the Waikato stand; this plant also received a cultural certificate and second place for **specimen cymbidium**, plus bronze award from Cymbidium Society of America. The plant had 18 spikes and hundreds of flowers red/mahogany in colour, a wonderful display and well grown - a credit to its owners Eric and Vorrei Jones of Tauranga.

Cymbidium Firevieux 'Hadfield Triply' - this plant had peloric lip markings which meant that instead of petals it had extra lips, so it looked triangular with three sets of lips, a real freak, but it looked lovely.

Norm Porter's display had so many certificates he will be able to wallpaper a wall with them, so many clean plants all different vibrant colours. *Cymbidium* Tamatea 'Tahi' 4N stood out and won **best polychrome** and took **Champion coloured cymbidium** too. Also dark red Elliott Haberlitz 'Dales Choice' won **best decorative cymbidium** in the show for the **Intermediate** class. This was a 4" flower, dark velvet/red almost black with a contrasting red lip with yellow centre.

The **cymbidium species** stood out and we must all thank George Fuller for the informative display of this group, their graceful arching spikes going in all directions. *Cym. lowianum* var. *concolor*, lime green petals/sepals, lovely yellow throat, seven pendulous spikes with over 120 flowers, very clean leaves, grown in 300mm square wooden tub. Also in this display was *Cymbidium insigne album*, two spikes of white 4" flowers, yellow throat, flat flower of very good substance.

Cymbidium pumilum var. *album* grown by C. Coles of New Plymouth had five spikes, over 65 flowers, light khaki green petals and sepals. Throat was light pastel pink with yellow keel in centre, leaves no longer than 300mm, many small bulbs and all in a 5" squat pot.

Another species which George Fuller got all excited about and dragged me down the hall to see was one which appears to be the link to modern breeding. This was in the display by Geyslerland Orchids. *Cymbidium insigne* var. *Bierii* FCC/RHS - open petals and sepals, white with pink overlay, but the lip looked just like our modern hybrids, large spotted pink, spike habit was upright 900mm high.

In the **odontoglossum alliance**, *Odontocidium* Tiger Butter 'Caroline Dalwood' had two spikes, 31 flowers of brown petals, dorsal with few bars across, lip contrasting cream base with golden brown upper - very nice. This plant won **best in the bigeneric section** and received HCC/OCNZ, grown by Betty Cullen.

Champion odont. species went to Ron Maunder's *Odm. crispum*, well overlapped flower of 4" size, white with pink overlay, two spikes with over 35 flowers. Also on this stand was a beautifully grown plant of *Phaius tankervilleae* with 4' spikes and dozens of flowers.

The **cattleya section** must surely belong to Jim James of the Waikato Orchid Society with plants like *Sl. Shona 'Glow'*, *Slc. Marriottiana*, *Slc. Kaka x Madge Fordyce*, *Slc. Alchemist 'Magic'* and *Sl. Jinn x Ctna. Keith Roth*, mostly red in colour. This stand had so many certificates they too could have wallpapered a wall somewhere.

The **Orchid Societies** really excelled with their backdrops, some using clouds on blue background giving the effect that they were floating through the sky. The Wanganui society was fortunate in having a window behind their backdrop giving an effect of coming to life with clouds over distant hills.

Capital City Orchid Society used a 19th Century scene with a room full of orchids yet achieving open space, old fashioned fire place complete with clock on mantel and red cattleya in fire place, armchairs, old fashioned wall paper - what a wonderful setting this was.

The Wairarapa Orchid Circle commissioned a painter for their backdrop and what a great picture it was showing the Tararuas and farmland, a real country scene. The quality of orchids in this display was extremely high.

The Tauranga Orchid Society's display was a large tree, well over 12' high with many branches all made out of papier mache with rock walls behind and orchids coming out of every nook and crack in the rock surface, mosses hanging from their tree with orchids, a lovely setting. A great effort when you

consider the distance societies had to travel.

The Whangarei Orchid Society included a bride complete with bouquet, waterfall effect and pathways, with floating clouds on their backdrop. The Kaitia Society received first place for their stand for originality, being a space scene on the moon using sand, rocks and little spacemen loading up their spaceship with orchids.

Mr Jim Dench of Manawatu Orchid Society started collecting **Orchid Society badges** in 1978 while attending the World Orchid Conference in Durban and has steadily increased his collection to over 200 different badges from societies all over the world. These were beautifully displayed in a glass case.

The **Stamp Collection** was brought over from Sydney, Australia by Mr and Mrs Chalmers and son Ian. This would be the biggest collection of orchid stamps ever shown in New Zealand and possibly Australasia, displaying over an area of 25'. In this display we saw the first orchid stamp ever issued along with rare stamps of orchids from all over the world. One that took my eye was the new set from Guyana featuring *Reichenbachia* in miniature. This is a large set showing species orchids.

On reflection, think of all the hours of work that all the orchid societies have put into their displays, the trucks, vans and buses they hired to come to Wellington and make such a beautiful show. All the friends we have made, the stories we can tell, complete with photos - and now its all over and we know the enthusiasm will rekindle for Auckland in September 1990.

I am sorry I cannot list all the plants but perhaps you might put pen to paper and write about your stay in Wellington. Thank you for a lovely time.





▲ *Lycaste* (Macama x Koolena)

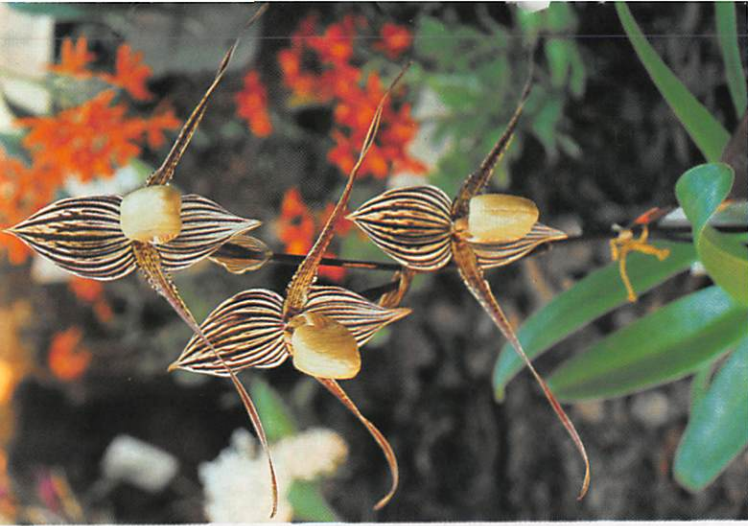
Grand Champion of the Show

Grower: Linwood Orchids Photography: N. Miller

▶ *Paphiopedilum* St. Swithins
'Wellington'

Reserve Champion of the Show

Grower: F. Askin Photography: G. Fuller



2nd NEW ZEALAND INTERNATIONAL ORCHID SHOW WELLINGTON 1985



▼ *Cochlioda noeziiana*

Grower: L & R Orchids

Photography: N. Miller

▼ *Paphiopedilum delenatii* 'Geyserland'

Grower: Geyserland Orchids

Photography: N. Miller



VALE

Kathryn (Kit) Clark

Many Orchidists throughout New Zealand and overseas will sadly miss the loss of a dear friend and respected member of the Waikato Orchid Society, Kit Clark, on the 22nd September 1985.

Kit was a member of the Waikato Orchid Society since 1964 and was elected a life member in 1985. The memory of her involvement and concern for others, together with her warm smile and words of encouragement to all keen enthusiasts bear her true caring nature. Perhaps the cups of tea and sandwiches supplied on many occasions will also be one of the fondest memories of visitors to her home and local society functions.

During the latter years of her involvement with orchids, her ability and keenness in growing *Phalaenopsis* gained her recognition around much of New Zealand.

Kit will be very much missed and our sympathy, encouragement and best wishes go to her husband, Martin, who we know will continue the encouragement the Clarks have given many orchid growers throughout New Zealand.

Darrell Bell

Thomas (Tom) French

The passing of Thomas Parr French on the 3rd October 1985 is a sad loss to all who knew him. Tom, son of one of New Zealand's pioneering orchid growers, developed his interest in orchids at an early age while farming near New Plymouth. He lived in Taranaki all his life and was the foundation President of the Taranaki Orchid Society, a position he held for three years.

In 1974 he was instrumental in forming the Orchid Council of New Zealand, becoming the foundation President, a position he held for seven years. He was a recipient of the John Easton Award in 1978 and was awarded the highest honour of the Orchid Council of New Zealand in the same year.

Tom had many other interests and was an avid reader and devoted letter writer and administrator. He was Past President of the Taranaki District Council of the Royal Institute of Horticulture 1964-66 and Vice-President of the Dominion Council 1967-69, also President of New Plymouth Toastmasters Association and New Plymouth Rotary.

I have had the pleasure of working with Tom as Secretary of the Taranaki Orchid Society and the Orchid Council of New Zealand and along with all orchid growers are saddened by his loss and extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Pat and family.

Syd Wray

Frank Askin C.M.G.

Orchid growers throughout New Zealand will be sad to hear of the sudden death, on the 17th October, of Frank Askin, of Wellington. Frank has been a leading figure among orchid growers in the Wellington region for many years, and is known nationally for his splendidly grown orchids, particularly his *paphiopedilums*, *odontoglossums* and *miltonias*. His death came just three days after the end of the 2nd New Zealand International Orchid Conference and Show, in which he exhibited 50 flowering plants including six plants of *Paphiopedilum delenatii*, for which he is widely known, and a splendid 3-flowered *Paphiopedilum* St. Swithins

(*rothschildianum* x *philippinense*) for which he received the Reserve Champion of the Show award; Champion *Paphiopedilum* (species or primary hybrid); Bronze Certificate (Cymbidium Soc. America); nomination for Award of Merit (OCNZ), and HCC (N.Z. Orchid Society).

One of eight children, Frank's early years were spent on farms in the Fairlie and Geraldine areas. He was educated at Timaru Boys' High School and although he received top marks in New Zealand in agriculture, went on to study engineering at Canterbury University where he graduated with the degrees of B.E. and B.Sc. He also achieved University Blues in hurdling and high jumping (he was one of the first to use the 'western roll' in New Zealand). In 1981 the University conferred on him an honorary Doctor of Science degree. His entire career was spent with the Ministry of Works (formerly Public Works Department) and he retired (as Commissioner of Works) in 1971; in his retirement he served on the Ports Authority and University Grants Committee. His five years war service included four years overseas with the sappers, in which he rose to the rank of major. He was awarded the C.M.G. in 1978 in recognition of his fine work, both as Commissioner of Works and on the Grants Committee.

Even from his earliest days, Frank had been interested in growing things. He first began growing orchids in the 1950's and these strange and spectacular plants were to eventually displace his previous hobby of rose growing and become a totally absorbing activity.

In the 1960's he joined the newly formed Orchid Circle of the Hutt Valley Horticultural Society and together with such well known names as Herbert Poole, Red Bartosh, Henry Rudolf and Keith Killoh, helped establish orchid growing as a popular hobby in the Wellington Region. The Orchid Circle was the focus of hobby orchid growing in the Wellington area in the 1960's and 1970's. Eventually, the Golden Coast, Wellington and Capital City Orchid Societies were established. Frank was instrumental in establishing the Wellington Orchid Society in 1977, and those of us who were involved in setting it up remember how his leadership, experience and reputation as an orchid grower ensured that the new society got away to a flying start. There was a great deal of enthusiasm in the young society and Frank guided its early development, as its first President. To his credit the society has grown and thrived and enthusiasm has remained at a high level. He became very much a father figure in the society, whose advice and opinions on all matters, orchidaceous and otherwise, was valued and respected. He and his wife, Joyce, became close friends of many orchid growers throughout the country and their home in Hataitai was always a place of welcome. Frank was a qualified OCNZ Judge and his knowledge and long experience was to prove particularly valuable both for judging and trainee sessions. He was always interested in helping younger people and was particularly gifted in explaining complicated issues. His talks on orchid culture will be long remembered for their clarity, good advice and sound common sense.

Frank was meticulous and thorough in everything he did, from sowing orchid seed and pricking out the young seedlings to preparing a constitution and rules (for the Wellington Orchid Society and Orchid Council of New Zealand). His care for his plants was more like a mother's care for her children and he always found it difficult to part with any of them, even although his three tiny glasshouses were bursting at the seams. He was a modest person (he never used the title 'Dr.') who shunned publicity but behind the scenes he carried more than his fair share of work. We in the Wellington Orchid Society will miss him deeply. To his wife, Joyce, and his children, Roger, Alison and Rosemary and their families we extend our deepest sympathy.

Roger Cooper



Pre-Conference Jitters

I have to admit to a feeling of pre-Conference stress, having just survived our local show in which I somewhat reluctantly included a specimen plant which was to be the 'piece de resistance' of an exhibit I am involved with in Wellington, only to have the largest spike completely broken off in transit! It was a day of trials and tribulations.

Spring is a hectic time in the park at the simplist, with frantic efforts to complete planting projects and renovation of sporting areas from winter to summer codes before warmer and drier weather, plus completion of various projects before heavier public useage. Throw into this an orchid show or two and the mixture is quite explosive.

What I think I am trying to say is that I am not going to be able to concentrate on a single theme so the following will be just a collection of random thoughts.

Naming of cymbidium hybrids I am supposed to be a species man but I have to confess to having a little of the weakness which when taken to the extreme is inclined to give a person the heady and dangerous conviction that they can control nature. So it was that a few years ago I was tempted to use our plant of the diminutive *Cymbidium pumilum* var. *album* 'Hakuun' as a parent. I should point out that it grows only about 150mm (6") tall and the spike is about the same with tiny pale yellowish self-coloured flowers.

At the time we had in flower another yellow self-coloured specimen, but this was a standard cymbidium hybrid which had never been named, although it had been in cultivation for many years. The parents were *C. lowianum* var. *concolor*, a species which it strongly resembled, and *C. Goosander*.

My cross of (*C. lowianum* var. *concolor* x *C. Goosander*) x *C. pumilum* var. *album* 'Hakuun' flowered last season and turned out to be a quite attractive miniature and not surprisingly a concolor (without contrasting colours). As the person who raised the seedlings felt that one of the clones was worthy of mericloning, the cross was certainly worth naming, and I chose *C. Pukekura Moonlight*. Now emerge the problems. For this hybrid to be named and registered, so must be the parents. No problem with the species parent, but how could I find the originator of *C. lowianum* var. *concolor* x *C. Goosander*, since he or she is supposed to be consulted and named? Also, the registration must be carried out with the Royal Horticultural Society in London, and furthermore it costs money. Not only that but on the 31st December 1984 the registration fee was to go up by a massive leap from five pounds sterling to fifteen pounds.

C. lowianum var. *concolor* x *C. Goosander*, variously written in mistake as *C. lowio-concolor* var. *Goosander* and perhaps other misconstructions over the years, had, it appears, been imported by Mrs Blake of Matamata. Fred Parker had obtained a plant and subsequently it came to the park collection in his donations. It is a very desirable concolor with arched spike but at some stage of its distribution virus had intruded, and for this reason our

plant was discarded shortly after the cross had been made.

My efforts to find out the originator of the cross were fruitless, and this I stated on the application, indicating that the hybrid had been in New Zealand for at least 20 years.

I proposed that the cross should be called *C. Fred Parker*, as he was very fond of it, and this name was accepted and is now official; so after all these years, those who have stood by this fine concolor can give it a correct name: to re-capitulate, *C. lowianum* var. *concolor* x *C. Goosander* = *C. Fred Parker*.

At the same time, I registered two hybrids that I had made, one being the cross of the above with *C. pumilum* var. *album* 'Hakuun' as previously mentioned. This is now *C. Pukekura Moonlight*, a concolor miniature.

The third one registered from the park was the result of crossing the dark, pendulous species *C. devonianum* with *C. Sweet Lime*, an unusual hybrid from *C. madidum*. *C. Sweet Lime* is late flowering (November/December) and has an enormous arching spike that can carry up to 50 medium sized, lime green flowers with little colour in the lip. The hybrid has very firm flowers, green with a reddish overlay, and I have named it *C. Fred Powell* in recognition of my personal admiration for this great pioneer orchid grower, who is patron of the N.Z.O.S., and at 98 years of age is still able to give us youngsters sound advice on orchid growing.

There is a special point of interest relating to these registrations. It appears that New Zealand breeders established with the R.H.S. some sort of special reputation for astuteness, for on the 31st December 1984, the very eve of the substantial price-hike in registration fees, a whole cluster of registrations was passed, most of them named after persons of some note in the New Zealand orchid scene.

A NOTABLE VISITOR

It is a great source of pleasure to me that one of the overseas visitors to the Wellington Conference is David Menzies, formerly of New Plymouth but currently responsible for the care of the 14,000 orchid plants at Kew Gardens. David has certainly travelled far in every sense since coming into my office as a very talented musician and university graduate with no practical plant skills but a burning enthusiasm to learn about orchids. I was not able to be of much direct help but at least I can gain satisfaction in the realisation that I seem to have helped to point him in the right direction, for he has indeed flourished.

Not only is he a very knowledgeable and competent grower but he can speak and write well and I hope this reference to the fact will shame him into contributing something to this worthy journal in order that we can also benefit from his unique experience.

It is bad enough to have to wither in the brilliance of a star which one first saw as a tiny glimmer on the horizon but the other night presented me with the ultimate irony. After our show a few of us gathered to glean what we could from David who reinforced his observations with a screening of what must be the most superb series of close-up photographs that I have ever seen. Whether it was just out of politeness or not towards the host I am not sure but I looked for a hole in the carpet when it was suggested that I show some of my slides. What an excruciating anticlimax!

David has been invited to speak at the Conference, taking the place of one of the guest speakers obliged to withdraw owing to family illness.

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

The editors are pleased to report that articles and photographs from David are planned for next year.

REWARD

WANTED FOR INFIDELITY

Cym. lowianum var. *concolor* x Goosander

This handsome paleface was last seen consorting in the moonlight at the 'Double P' Ranch (Pukekura Park) with another paleface, *C. pumilum* var. *album* in 1973. Vanished without trace, thought to be suffering from a viral infection.

Custodians of the offspring, *C. Pukekura Moonlight*, seek return.

Inter-state extradition can be organised.

If viral infection again confirmed, public immolation will be arranged.

Reward payment will be in dinkum Taranaki oil if supplies last.

Any information to:

Sheriff G. Fuller
Parks and Recreation Department
Council of New Plymouth City
Private Bag
New Plymouth

Colour Photographs - Can You Help?

The Editors of 'Orchids in New Zealand' are anxious to build up a supply of colour photographs for use in the magazine. We require material for use on the front and back covers, and the inside pages. Colour slides (transparencies) are greatly preferable to prints. The flower, flowers or plant featured should be in clear focus, without distracting background or foreground details and the photograph should be properly exposed.

STOP PRESS: By a new process, excellent slides can now be made from negatives, so send us a negative with your colour print.

In addition, photographs for use, particularly on the front cover, should have that indefinable 'spark' that distinguishes a good photograph from a snapshot.

In submitting photographs please supply the name of the grower of the plant and the name of the photographer. If you want the photograph back, please advise us, and we will have a copy made (but originals are generally better). Try not to send slides that have been projected often or for long periods (eventually the dyes fade with exposure to bright light).

These points also apply to photographs sent with articles.

Please help us with this - photographs are one of our chief headaches! but good ones can give a tremendous lift to any magazine.

Noted at the Conference

Taranaki, not surprisingly, won the prize for the highest waterfall. It issued rather mysteriously from a hollow treefern trunk, splashed into a puddle and then most people thought that it meandered down a little plastic creek, under the giant plastic log and into another plastic puddle to be re-cycled; but in fact a subtle proportion of the Taranaki sunshine was siphoned off, diverted through the floor and created a most dramatic waterfall, witnessed by very few as it cascaded into the lecture hall below. An otherwise smiling and unflappable Show Marshall was one of the few privileged to witness the spectacle and was unstinting in conveying his innermost feelings of astonishment at such originality. Will Taranaki ever be invited back to a Conference?

First prize for dedication would surely have to go to Winston Larsen. A retired nurseryman and plant lover to the core, it appears that it was mainly due to his persistence that his society staged an exhibit and though feeling his age, his pride in their efforts was so great that there was very little time in the five days of the Show that he was not to be found in the vicinity.

The insect-eating plant, *Nepenthes* (pitcher plant) is now claiming larger victims. Would you believe judges and orchid societies?

One group went to extreme effort involving months of planning and construction to pre-fabricate a giant tree festooned with orchids and set against a convincing rockery background. The exhibit was almost 12m long and contained a wide range of well-grown and displayed specimens, avoiding the

usual temptation to clutter. Not surprisingly, it was in contention for excellence of display, until someone noticed the inclusion of a plant of *Nepenthes*, used as a means of creating atmosphere. Reference to the rules revealed that fruits and flowers other than orchids were unacceptable as background material and the judges went through an agonizing period trying to determine whether or not the pitchers were in fact flowers. First into the trap were the judges for they came to the erroneous conclusion that the pitchers were flowers. This dragged the orchid society in after them for there was no alternative but to disqualify the exhibit.

This goes to emphasize the onerous nature of the task of judging and the great responsibility involved. To their credit, the judges concerned sought assistance but since the operation is, for obvious reasons, somewhat cloistered, nobody could be found to clarify that botanically the pitchers are the modified terminals of leaves and quite distinct from the flowers. The decision will go down in orchid history alongside that controversial All Blacks versus Wales rugby match at the turn of the century. No doubt we will be seeing the emblem of the orchid society concerned changing symbolically to a nepenthes pitcher and a series of satirical cartoons emerge over the initials 'B.I.' (Biophyta insectiverosa).

How refreshing to have such spacious conditions where exhibits were not cluttered. It must have been a unique experience for most exhibitors to be staging on carpet and how well it set off the whole show. With these factors, plus the generous skylighting, it was a photographers paradise, even without flash.

G.F.



▲ *Osmoglossum pulchellum* (formerly *Odontoglossum pulchellum*)
Grower: Helen and Bert Topp Photography: N. Miller

2nd NEW ZEALAND INTERNATIONAL ORCHID SHOW - WELLINGTON 1985

▼ *Cymbidium insigne* var. *album* Grower: L & R Orchids Photography: G. Fuller



JOHN EASTON AWARD 1985

The John Easton Award is made annually by the Hawkes Bay Orchid Society to an individual in New Zealand whom they consider has made an 'outstanding contribution to the culture and promotion of orchids in New Zealand'. The recipient for 1985 is

Mr Ron Maunder
of the Tauranga Orchid Society

Ron is a foundation member of the Bay of Plenty Orchid Society, and foundation President of the Tauranga Orchid Society. He is also serving a fifth term on the Orchid Council of New Zealand Inc., and has made an excellent job of establishing the Council's Slide Library. He was one of the first associate Editors of "Orchids in New Zealand" and has given continuous service to this publication ever since.

He was President of the N.Z. Export Growers Orchid Association for its first three years.

While working in Vanuatu he rediscovered the red dendrobium, *D. mohlianum*, and collected orchids and other plants.

Ron is a willing and able speaker at Orchid Society meetings throughout New Zealand, and always has time to

talk to and help anyone who seeks his advice. He has visited most Orchid Societies throughout New Zealand, even to the remote areas in the South Island.

He attends and displays at as many orchid shows as possible, and is available as a judge.

The smooth running of the recent national judging Seminar at Taupo was a tribute to Ron's organising abilities, and an example of his commitment to New Zealand orchid judging.

Orchid enthusiasts throughout New Zealand should be proud of Ron, (a commercial grower) who is so willing to share his time and expertise.

Mrs E. Allen
Secretary
John Easton Award Committee



Colour Fund Donations

The Conzed Executive and the Editors of 'Orchids in New Zealand' gratefully acknowledge contributions from the following to the magazine Colour Fund:

Bay of Islands Orchid Society
Mrs Jane Freer, Auckland
Whangarei Orchid Society
Mr H. C. Bowden, Wellington



New South Island Shows

Congratulations to societies such as South Canterbury Orchid, Begonia and Fern Society which ran its first public show, at Timaru, this spring. Without any supporting commercial displays, members contributed more than 200 plants to make a very successful show. The Committee agreed that the total support of the members was most rewarding.

North Otago Orchid Society also held a successful first show - twice as many people attended as were predicted, and several new members were gathered.

Both societies hope the shows will boost their numbers and enthusiasm and should increase the popularity of orchid growing in the South Island.

Waikato Orchid Society Celebrates 25 Years

Gary Barker

It has been 25 years since the inception of the Waikato Orchid Society. The occasion was marked by a special Silver Jubilee function in conjunction with the Society's Annual Winter Show. An excellent showing of winter blooms was in keeping with the festive occasion of the Jubilee Luncheon at the Centennial Lounge of the Te Rapa Racecourse.

About 150 members of the Waikato, Tauranga, North Shore and N.Z. Orchid Societies had the opportunity to meet with old and new acquaintances while treated to a viewing of the orchid blooms on display. An early afternoon luncheon with wine and beautiful birthday cake set the scene for much reminiscing and some crystal ball gazing. Mr Alex Surgenor, the Society President, welcomed the dignitaries and fellow society members. In the official opening speech, Mr Ross Jansen, the mayor of Hamilton city, spoke of the city council's commitment to promoting the garden city image of Hamilton. The council has embarked on an ambitious project of upgrading and expanding the city gardens. This includes a building complex devoted entirely to horticultural activities, and will cater for society shows, conferences, a library and WTI lecture and workshop facilities. Mr Jansen was accompanied at the luncheon by Mr Daisuki Ihara from Urawa, which is Hamilton's sister city in Japan. There are plans to include a Japanese garden in the city garden complex.

In June 1960 a small team of orchid enthusiasts formed the 'Waikato Orchid Group', with Mr A. Kelly as their first President. March 1962 saw a name change to the 'Waikato Orchid Society'. Mr Assid Corban in his address to the Jubilee function remarked on the pioneering spirit of the Waikato Orchid Society, for it has been a forerunner and leader in many aspects of orchids in New Zealand. The Waikato Society is

the second oldest society in New Zealand devoted solely to promoting the culture and showing of orchids. The society has maintained a close relationship with the New Zealand Orchid Society to which the 'Waikato Orchid Group' was affiliated, and to the Committee to which for many years it sent a delegate. Members of the Waikato Society rapidly established a reputation for good growing and success at shows. In 1962 Waikato members won a large number of the major prizes at the New Zealand Orchid Society's show and the Society's exhibit was awarded a Highly Commended Certificate. Mr Corban recalled with some fondness the ensuing keen but good natured rivalry at the shows of the two societies. Such success encouraged the Waikato Orchid Society to run its own shows, the first of which was held in 1963. This show, although small on current standards, attracted blooms from as far afield as Sydney and established a reputation for excellence which the Society has continued to build upon.

The Waikato Society has also had close affiliations with the North Shore Orchid Society. Miss B. O. O'Dowda spoke of the encouragement and guidance from Waikato members during those establishment years of the North Shore Society. The fellowship developed was not unlike that established between the New Zealand Orchid and Waikato Societies a few years earlier.



Trevor and Pearl Martin's *Miltonia* Celle 'Wasserfall' - the best orchid in the show.

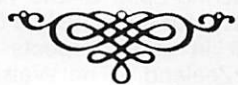
Photography: Gary Barker

Rae James cuts the Jubilee Cake



**WAIKATO
ORCHID
SOCIETY'S
SILVER**

**JUBILEE
SHOW**



Mr Darrell Bell, President of the Orchid Council of New Zealand, spoke of the role of the Waikato Society in the establishment of the Council during the 1970's and its continuing commitment to the promotion of orchids at both Society and Council level.

The Waikato Society has had a steady influx of new members over the years. The Society seeks to cater for new and the more experienced grower/exhibitors alike with a varied programme of activities. Currently the Society boasts 420 members, with a committee of 15.

The unfailing enthusiasm of a small band of orchid growers has done much to ensure the success of the Waikato Orchid Society. Mr I. D. (Jim) James and Mr F. S. (John) Young have been stalwarts of the Society since its inception. Jim James has served on every committee since 1960 which included a period as President in 1963. He is always totally involved in Society affairs and is well known for his activities in hybridizing, judging and show competition. John Young has also served on a number of committees, and was President in 1964. Both Jim James and John Young were elected life members in 1978. Their respective wives, Mrs Rae James and Mrs Elsie Young have both worked extensively for the Society and served on its committee. As John and Elsie Young are shortly to leave the Waikato to take up residence in Auckland, the opportunity was taken at the Jubilee to make a gift presentation to them in way of thanks for their efforts. Mr and Mrs A. M. Clark joined the Society in 1962, and both have served on the committee at various times. Martin remains on the current Committee, having served as President in 1971. Martin and Kit Clark were elected life members in 1985. All were delighted to see Kit at the Jubilee function despite her continuing illness. She will be sadly missed.

The surprise visit from the AOS President, Mr F. L. (Steve) Stevenson was a fitting finale to a successful and happy occasion. It is only coincidental

that Mr Stevenson fills the position as President of the AOS exactly 25 years after he joined.

WAIKATO ORCHID SOCIETY 1985 WINTER SHOW

- Waikato Winter Cup - Best Orchid in Show**
Miltonia Celle 'Wasserfall' - T.C. and P.D.Martin
- Class 1 - Cymbidium White/White pink flush, Open**
Mt Cook 'Avalon' - Burkes Orchids
- Class 1a - Cymbidium Pink, Open**
Mouchette - I.D.James
- Class 2 - Cymbidium Green, Open**
Fanfare St Francis x Rincon 'Clarrisse' Longview Orchids
- Class 3a - Cymbidium Yellow, Open**
Arcadian Sunrise 'Golden Fleece' - A. & M.E. Surgenor
- Class 3 - Cymbidium Any Other Colour, Open**
Zuma Boyd x Sleeping Beauty 'Victoria' Burkes Orchids
- Class 4 - Cymbidium Standard, Novice**
Rothesay 'Black Label' (Mutation) - L. & A.L. Lokum
- Class 4a - Cymbidium Miniature, Novice**
Cavendish Grace - A. Locke
- Class 5 - Cut Spike, Any Genera**
Cymbidium Taperoo - R. & N. Armstrong
- Class 6 - Cymbidium Miniature, Open**
Little Bighorn 'Yellow Hair' - A.R.Napper
- Class 7 - Cymbidium Novelty, Open**
Moriah 'Hindu' x Voodoo 'Gypsy Red' - Linwood Orchids
- Class 8 - Cattleya, Coloured, Open**
L.C.Cabernet - I.D.James
- Class 10 - Cattleya, Any Colour Novelty, Open**
SLC Kaka x Ctna. Keith Roth - I.D.James
- Class 11 - Phalaenopsis, White, Open**
Phal. Milkmaid Milkyway x Darren Bennett 'Lorraine' - R. & S. Iqbal
- Class 11a - Phalaenopsis, Pink, Open**
Phal. Helen Smoothery x Abendrot - R. & S. Iqbal
- Class 12 - Paphiopedilum, Open**
Paph. Sardero 'Mother Lode' - Corban's Orchids
- Class 13 - Paphiopedilum, Novice**
Tree of Reminiscence - Clist-Robins Family
- Class 14 - Any Other Genera, Open**
Miltonia Celle 'Wasserfall' - T.C. & P.D.Martin
- Class 15 - Species**
Comparettia macroplectron - V. Bayliss
- Class 16 - Any Other Genera, Novice**
Phal. Helen Smoothery x Abendrot - R. & S. Iqbal
- Class 18 - Odonts**
Odontioda (Stephanie x Haniesto) - R. Maunder

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8th-31st May 1986

Join North Shore Orchid Society members on this fabulous experience. Cost - based on present day exchange rates, etc. - \$3,750. For further information on itinerary, etc., contact Jack and Jopie Hart, 24 Albany Highway, Glenfield, Auckland 10. Phone: 444-8542.

Orchids in New Zealand

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A bi-monthly journal with a South Pacific flavour

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I have about a dozen seed pots fattening up on my *Earina mucronata* now. If you know of anybody interested in attempting to grow these seeds for fun or profit, please give them my phone number, Auckland 887-351.

Later I will have seeds of *Dendrobium cunninghamii* and *Earina autumnalis*. Thelymitras I grow by sprinkling the seeds around my ordinary Cymbidium pots but this system hasn't worked for the epiphytes.

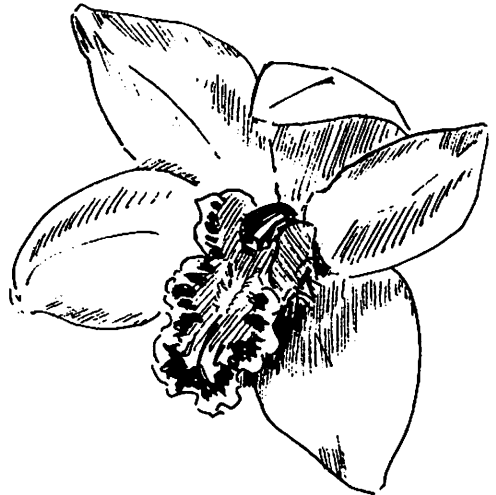
R. Silby
Avondale
Auckland

P.S. I like the native orchids on the back of the magazine.

ADDRESS CHANGE

TOKOROA AND DISTRICTS ORCHID SOCIETY

Secretary: Mrs D. M. Willson, 84 Tasman Drive, Tokoroa. Phone: 65-987.



PHALAENOPSIS CULTURE

Part 2 Let's Talk Potting Phalaenopsis

Bill Livingston

After discussing in our last article how to remove, and take care of your Phalaenopsis seedlings from the flask, we are now ready to advance to the next step.

We feel potting is one of the five most important points to remember for successful Phalaenopsis growing. The other steps, which we will discuss in other articles are watering, fertilizing, temperature, light and humidity.

We handle plants as though they are right out of the flask, as described in our last article. We recommend using a moist potting mix. The reason we are saying mix, is there are a number of planting media Phalaenopsis will grow in, and we will discuss them in this article. Right after the plant has been repotted we withhold water for 24 hours. This allows the damaged roots to heal over and seal up, which helps to keep any bacteria from entering the plant. When we water for the first time after re-potting we use vitamin B-1 solution, which is NAA and Thiamine, according to label directions for the first two waterings. This helps take the plant out of shock from re-potting. You will notice the plant will not have the appearance of being re-potted.

There are a number of potting media to choose from. Availability and price are some of the factors which will influence your choice. Over the years we have seen just about every mix you can imagine with Phals. growing in them. We are fortunate in our area to have a good supply of red fir, which we use. Examples of what they grow in: fir bark (Douglas, white or red fir), cork oak bark, pea gravel, coarse sand, tree fern, lava rock, pumice stone, redwood chips, coconut hair, charcoal, foam rubber, peat moss, are just a few. Some of the above mentioned items are used by themselves. Some growers mix a few of the above together. All the above can be used, but you will have to learn how to grow in each one, as watering and

fertilizing is handled differently as you will find out. Some of the mixes will hold more water than others. You will find fertilizing will not be the same for all mixes.

We will discuss using fir bark, as we have had most of our experience growing in it. You need two sizes of bark. One for the seedlings 3mm to 6mm and a medium grade 6mm to 15mm for mature plants. All barks have fine particles and dust mixed in it. For this reason we pre-soak our bark in a container. During the summer months we soak it over night. During the fall and winter months we will soak it for just about 3 to 4 hours. Soaking allows the fines and dust and any other particles that soak up an excessive amount of water to settle to the bottom of the container. You skim off the bark that floats to the top and let it drain for a while before using, half an hour or so. You could use a 130 litre plastic barrel to soak your bark in. Pour it half full of bark, then fill the barrel with water until the bark reaches the top. Agitate the bark several times to drop the unwanted particles to the bottom. Discard water and residue when the good bark has been removed. Another way to size your bark is to get a piece of wire poultry mesh such as 3mm, 6mm and 15mm. Make a wooden frame and nail mesh to one side. Be sure the sides are at least 7cm to 10cm high. Then place a small portion of bark on the mesh and shake back and forth. This will allow the small particles to drop out and the larger pieces of bark to stay on top.

One other good reason for pre-soaking the bark is to provide moisture to the newly potted plants. Using dry material will absorb the small moisture from the plant.

Your next question would most likely be what size bark should I use? The size of the plant and the number of roots determines this. Seedlings with few and fine roots should be planted into seedling bark, and in a pot about 5cm in size. Our method is to use a pot that will accommodate the root system, and yet keep the roots a little crowded, but allowing room for new roots to grow. This also prevents over-watering which can be harmful to the roots. It is our opinion after years of growing, that small seedlings like to be crowded in smaller pots and moved up to larger pots every six to eight months, providing the root system warrants it. Re-potting seems to give the young plants a boost. Mature plants can be re-potted once a year in medium size bark after blooming. We have even re-potted the plant when in spike and in flower, without ill effects. When in spike you can lose size and quality to some degree. We have blooming plants that have been in continuous bloom for over two years. We will discuss in another article how to keep your plants in bloom for greater periods of time. Sometimes you just have to re-pot even if you don't think the time is right. Whenever you see new roots starting to protrude from the plant, this is a sign the plant is actively growing and can be re-potted. (You know when a Phalaenopsis is in bloom it is in its dormant season). Be careful not to damage these new root tips any more than you have to.

Phalaenopsis roots have a tendency to grow out of the pot and wrap around the rim and protrude through the drain holes. Remember these root tips of the aerial roots are gathering food and moisture, which is converting energy through photosynthesis, as well as the leaves. If the roots become unsightly to you, you may trim them up to the edge of the pot rim, and drain holes. New roots form along the remaining aerial roots shortly after trimming.

Be aware that you should always re-pot before the bark decomposes. To know how to test for decomposing bark,

you take your finger or thumb, and press down firmly on the top of the bark. If the bark gives way and feels spongy without returning to its original state, it is time to repot.

Let's discuss pots and pot sizes. We prefer plastic pots over clay pots. Plastic does not allow a buildup of salts as clay pots do. We use 5cm, 6cm, 7cm, 8cm, 10cm, 15 x 12.5cm, Scotch pots in our nursery. They all have bottom and side drains. I cannot emphasize enough that good drainage is very important. You will have less problems from root rot. We have found deep pots are suicide to Phalaenopsis, as they hold too much water, and they hold too much potting mix. To give you a general idea as to pot size to plant, we will give you the following guide lines: 5-7cm leaf span plants go into 5-6cm pots with seedling bark, 10-12cm leaf span plants into 6-8cm pots with seedling bark, unless root system is extensive, then we would use medium sized bark in 8cm pot, plants 15cm up are placed in pots to accommodate roots as already described above. Leaf size does not determine pot size. If you do not have sufficient roots there is no reason to put in a large pot. If you over-pot you will kill your plant. When we refer to pot depth, we are suggesting the depth of Azalea pots* as a gauge. Another thing we have found out is colour of pot. We use dark green coloured pots or black, and find them to be very good. We have used clear and milk white coloured pots, and had failure. These pots would transmit light into the pot and algae would form, also the bark would decompose quicker.

If your pots do not have sufficient drain holes you can take a soldering iron, clean out the existing holes. Particles of plastic are left in the holes from the casting of the pots quite often, and should be removed. You can use your soldering iron to melt a few 6cm additional holes into the sides or bottom of the pot to give it the needed drainage.

You are probably wondering when are we going to get to re-potting a plant.

It's coming now. We felt if you understood the preliminary proceedings first it would make potting easier. Believe me potting is so easy, it can be done in your sleep.

To remove the plant from the pot it is in, place both hands on the pot, gently give a squeeze with one hand and then the other to force the roots to release from the sides of the pot. Then tip the pot, letting the bark tumble out. If the plant wants to stick inside the pot, you take your thumb and first finger and place them on either side of the plant, and start pulling out gently. Don't worry if some of the roots break off, it is not a catastrophe. After the plant is out you remove all the old bark. If the bark decomposed, and you have mud and muck on the roots, wash the roots off with water. Trim the roots that are brown, soft and extra long and straggly, and especially the few that grow from the bottom of the trunk. At this time I always remove one or two bottom leaves providing there are at least three or more leaves on top. The reason for removing the bottom leaf or leaves is to allow the new roots under the leaves an easier time to grow out. They do not have to grow through one or two leaves. The faster your roots grow out, the sooner you can start to feed your plants. We never fertilize newly potted plants for at least a month or until sufficient roots have grown out to absorb the fertilizer.

Get a pot that will accommodate the roots as described above. Place a small amount of bark in the bottom of the pot so as to cover the bottom. Now pick up your plant with your thumb and first finger, hold the plant firmly, and place the plant in the centre of the pot so that the bottom leaf of the plant is no higher than the rim of the pot. A little lower is alright, but too low is bad, because water can sit in the crown of the plant and cause crown rot. Good-bye plant. Now that the plant is being held in position start taking small amounts of bark with your other hand, and start pouring bark into the pot. When the pot

is about half full, release the plant, and vibrate or shake with an occasional thumping of the pot on the bench you are working on. Repeat this until the bark is settled, occasionally adding bark and adjusting the plant's position if needed. We do not use potting sticks to drive the bark down into the pot. This can cause excessive crushing of roots. We use our thumbs to push down on the bark to firm and place bark. If you have done this procedure right, you can pick up the plant by both leaves and the plant will not fall from the pot. The bark should stand about 1cm below the rim of the pot. This helps make a reservoir to hold water in when watering, also keeps the bark from washing out. Let the plants sit 24 hours before watering with vitamin B-1 if you have it. We suggest two waterings of B-1, then go to straight water. When you go to straight water, flush the pot well. Let the water run until it comes clear out the bottom of the pot. It has then washed all the fine particles out of the pot. If B-1 is not available, water 24 hours after potting and be sure to flush out pot until the water runs clear. Start feeding approximately one month after repotting or when new roots start to appear.

Now wasn't that easy potting? Like we said you will get to the point you can pot them in your sleep.

There is more technical information we could discuss, which we may go into at a later date.

In the next article we plan to discuss watering and fertilizing. We are always happy to answer any of your questions through our articles.

Thank you, to all those who stopped by to get acquainted at the recent Wellington Show.

128 Hughes Road
Watsonville
California
U.S.A. 95076

**Azalea pots are shallower than standard flower pots. The term is little used in New Zealand nowadays.*
Editors

A HOME MADE FERTILISER PROPORTIONER

Lionel Ruby

To many orchid growers like myself, the task of applying fertiliser to my orchids via watering can has always been a tedious one.

Proportioner applicators are available but, selling at \$300-\$400 each were more than I felt inclined to spend. I thought that there must be a simpler and easier way than those complicated vacuum pumps. After some weeks of experimenting, I made an applicator which is perfect for my requirements and cost less than \$10.00.

It operates at a ratio of 1:100, so I halve the strength of my stock mix solution so that my rate of application is 1:200 (refer to microfeeds).

The ratio may be varied by interchanging the control jet but as I do not have the equipment to make and drill finer jets, I find it much simpler to vary stock solution strengths.

The ratio remains constant irrespective of rate of water flow and as there are no moving parts, there is no maintenance required.

The proportioner does not work on gravity feed as the vacuum created will lift liquid, five feet and more, so, holding

tanks for stock solution may be at ground level.

I use two twenty litre drums on a shelf just to keep my floor space clear. The proportioner is fixed to the shelf and my hose runs free off the proportioner. I have also incorporated a non-return valve in my water line to comply with local by-laws.

Material used:

- 12mm copper hose jointer
- Standard brass gas fittings
- ¼ inch copper tube
- 1/16 inch copper tube
- A piece of 3/8 inch brass tube
- Brass jet – 1/32 inch hole (ex Goblin ace spray bottle)
- Length of clear plastic tube to fit over ¼ inch copper tube

Assembled size 115mm x 90mm.

*4 Anthony Place
Pakuranga
Auckland*

Key to Diagram on opposite page of Mr Ruby's Fertiliser Proportioner

Fig. 1: Locking nut to hold copper tube and jet in rigid position.

Fig. 2: 1. Copper tube
2. Collar
3. Slight expansion of tube

Fig. 3: 1. Brass jet
2. O Ring
3. 1/32 inch bore

Fig. 4: 1. Control jet sits in recess
2. Vacuum chamber. Tapered thread of Fig. 6: 2. makes air tight joint.

Fig. 5: Floating washer cuts off fertiliser supply inlet when water is turned off at hose outlet. This prevents dilution of stock mix.

Fig. 6: 1. Groove across head to allow passage of fertiliser under cut-off washer.

- 2. Tapered thread
- 3. 1/16 inch copper tube fits into ¼ inch tube
- 4. Brass tube fitted to hose coupling and holding nut.
- 5. Hose jointer
- 6. ¼ inch copper tube sealed within hose jointer. This must be constructed so that all water flow must pass through the ¼ inch by 1 inch long piece of copper tube.

**Diagram of
Mr Ruby's
Fertiliser
Proportioner**



Fig 1.

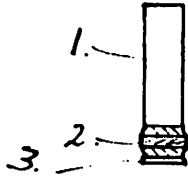


FIG. 2.



FIG 3

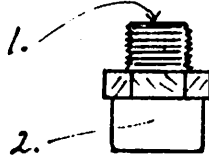


FIG. 4.



Fig 5.

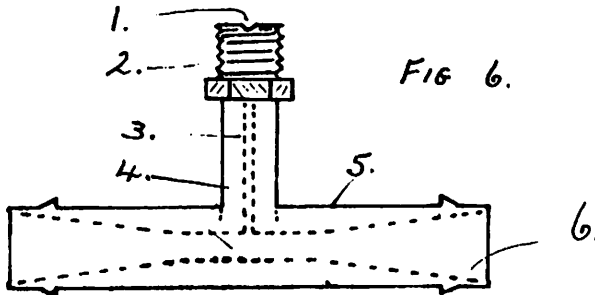


FIG 6.

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CYMBIDIUM CULTURE NOTES

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

Gordon Maney

It's true, I suppose that every month is important in the Culture of Cymbidiums, but these two months are vital

Firstly, DECEMBER, JANUARY and FEBRUARY are the months the buds are set and so obviously feeding must play a very important part.

From the beginning of December use a dry feed of 2 parts Dried Blood, 6 parts Super and 2 parts Sulphate of Potash. Approximately a dessertspoon round a 25cm pot, and this way it is gradually watered into the plant. Do this once a month and liquid feed with phostragen at the rate of one teaspoon to 9 litres of water once a week.

Because November/December is much warmer and the plants are drying out more quickly, you must water more frequently. This of course helps to keep red spider at bay, and with increased feeding you need to thoroughly leach 5 days after feeding to stop the build up of salts.

Make sure your houses are clean and tidy with no leaves or rubbish lying around.

Keep an eye out for scale on the plants you're breaking up or repotting. If need be, spray with all seasons oil 10 ml to 5 litres, and mix wettable powder malathion at the recommended rate.

DO NOT spray on a hot sunny day or you'll burn the leaves. I personally only spray those plants that are infected; and because there's only the odd one its easy to put it in a shady spot.

For aphids and caterpillars wettable powder Orthene is definitely the best. For those of you using microfeeds, 214 is the right one from December on.

NEW ZEALAND EXPORT GROWERS ORCHID ASSOC. INC. N.Z.E.G.O.

On 5th August 1980 a hundred Orchid Exporters, Orchid Plant Retailers and Orchid Export Company Representatives met in Auckland and formed the New Zealand Export Growers Orchid Association and formally approved a constitution which allowed the Association to become incorporated.

Prior to this meeting, a preliminary meeting was held in Rotorua in May 1980 where a steering committee was formed to draw up aims and objects and look into a constitution, voting rights, etc. Another meeting was held in Auckland on the 27th June 1980.

Aims and Objectives:

These are generally to promote good fellowship amongst orchid growers of New Zealand and to promote a co-ordinated orchid industry.

Other aims agreed to are:

1. To act as a vehicle to communicate export grower problems to each other.
2. To act as a representative body for the industry in related problems.
3. To communicate results of research from both New Zealand and Overseas to growers - to establish research programmes with Government Departments.
4. To advise growers on changes in the market place.
5. To co-ordinate the marketing of orchids overseas.
6. To foster regional groups.
7. To investigate the bulk buying of packaging materials.

Recent activities include making submissions on the Horticultural Export Authority Bill, dispersing information relevant to the commercial situation, to its members, and acting as a focus for M.A.F. reports on orchids.

An Introduction to Paphiopedilum Species

(Part 6)

Ronald Roy

This article starts the descriptions of the species found in Indonesia, the first five of which all come from Sumatra, a very large island lying NW-SE across the equator.

The high mountain range running the 1600 kilometres of its length is in the path of the monsoon winds that sweep up from the Indian Ocean during one part of the year and down from the China Sea in the opposite season. Any lowland areas will experience a prolonged dry period when the mountains provide shelter from the seasonal winds, and slipper orchids will not thrive there. In the mountains themselves there is copious and frequent rainfall and any dry period will be of short duration. The higher altitudes also provide cooler nights which most paphs. prefer, and if the basic strata is limestone so much the better.

Paphiopedilum chamberlainianum

Discovered by Micholitz in 1891 and the dried multiflowered scape which he sent to Sander in England confirmed that it was a new species. With an eye to business Sander named the species in honour of Joseph Chamberlain M.P. who was not only a keen amateur orchid grower but also very wealthy and politically influential. As was often the case Sander failed to provide sufficient funds for a collecting expedition to be mounted before the monsoon rains made access impossible and Micholitz had to wait until 1892 to re-enter the mountains where he amassed a shipment of about 10,000 plants for despatch to London. The extent of such stripping of an area is evidenced by the fact that the type species of this orchid was not collected again until 1973, a gap of 80 years. Other closely related species and varieties of *P. chamberlainianum* were collected in the intervening years and often sold as the type. The colour slide, though a little over-exposed, is a good example of the true species and quite different from the forms '*Liemiiana*' and '*Latifolium*' which are more readily available.

P. chamberlainianum is a robust plant with huge leaves in its natural state. If plants are received in this condition it pays to cut back the mature leaves to

10-15cm while the plant is re-establishing. Leaves grow to 40cm long and 7cm wide, usually plain dark green with purple spotting on the underside, leaf margins ciliate towards base. Scape to 60cm with a succession of flowers borne over a period of many months. Flowers to 10cm across; dorsal sepal almost circular, greenish white with a number of purplish brown stripes; petals horizontal, spiralled like a corkscrew, very hairy on margins, white spotted and streaked with purplish red; pouch large, greenish white heavily spotted with red. Intermediate to warm growing, moderate light, keep moist. Flowering season all year round with a robust plant.

Paphiopedilum curtisii. Discovered in Sumatra in 1882 by Charles Curtis who was collecting for Veitch and Sons. A small consignment was sent back to England but its exact location was not disclosed except that it was 'at some distance from Padang at an elevation of 3000-4000 feet'. Curtis retired about this time and other collectors scoured the accessible mountain areas to try to locate the new species which was in great demand in Europe. It was refound more or less by accident in 1887 by Ericsson who had virtually given up the task after several fruitless years of searching. *P. curtisii* has never been



Paphiopedilum chamberlainianum

readily available and single divisions, when offered, are still rather expensive.

P. curtisii is an attractive orchid closely allied to *P. ciliolare* and *P. superbiens*. It occurs sparsely scattered throughout the central and northern sections of the main mountain chain of Sumatra at elevations of 1000-2500 metres. Leaves are elliptic, pointed, to 20cm long and 7cm wide, tessellated above with grey green and dark green, grey green underneath. Scape single

Paphiopedilum curtisii



flowered to 30cm high; the large dorsal sepal broadly heartshaped with acutely pointed apex, greenish white with numerous veins of green and brown-purple; petals greenish, strap shaped, deflexed, slightly twisted with tips recurved, margined with black hairs and uniformly spotted with brown-purple; pouch very large, green overlaid with red-purple. Intermediate temperature, flowering season summer.

Paphiopedilum primulinum A small-growing relative of *P. chamberlainianum* that is sufficiently different to merit separate specific rank. Discovered in 1972 in the north-west of Sumatra at an elevation of about 500 metres in areas of



Paphiopedilum primulinum

high humidity and frequent rainfall. Leaves plain green to about 20 cm long, usually less, and 3cm wide, basal margins ciliate. Lacks the purple spotting at the base of the leaves that is present in *P. chamberlainianum*. Flower scape to 40cm, arching over at top and bearing a succession of attractive smallish flowers over a period of many months, usually only one flower open at a time. Natural spread of flower about 7cm. Dorsal sepal circular about 3cm across, light green shading to yellow on margins, some faint green veining; petals almost horizontal, narrow, wavy edged and slightly twisting, ciliate on

margins, bright gold; pouch large in proportion to overall flower size, bright yellow, staminode circular, green with yellow margin. This attractive little orchid enjoys intermediate temperature, reasonable light and plenty of moisture when in active growth. Flowering time winter/spring/summer.

Paphiopedilum tonsum Discovered among a shipment of *P. curtisii* and named by Reichenbach in 1883. Grows throughout the mountains of Sumatra at elevations of 500-1000 metres under conditions of high humidity. An attractive plant with variable leaf markings, the so-called 'red leaf' form being the most common. Leaves are brightly tessellated with light and dark green above and basally spotted with crimson underneath, to 15cm long and 3cm wide. Scape erect, single flowered to 40cm tall. Flowers to 10cm across,



Paphiopedilum tonsum

varnished appearance; dorsal sepal heart shaped with lower margins revolute, greenish white with numerous fine brown vertical veins; petals spreading, strap shaped, broader and rounded at tips which turn back slightly with age, yellow brown, lightly veined and with a few prominent dark brown spots along mid vein and upper margin; pouch large, helmet shaped, yellowish, veined reddish brown. Requires a fair amount of shade, plenty of moisture, good drainage and intermediate temperature. Flowering period variable but usually autumn.

Paphiopedilum victoria-regina For many years this plant has been known as *P. victoria-mariae*. It is a good example of Sander's opportunism. A dried specimen received in 1892 was named in honour of Queen Victoria and registered by the R.H.S. but loss of the first shipment delayed supply to the public and when the first flowering in England coincided with the announcement of the betrothal of H.R.H. the Duke of York and Princess Victoria Mary of Teck (later to become King George V and Queen Mary), Sander conveniently renamed the species *P. victoria-mariae* in her honour. The original name was reinstated in 1967.



Paphiopedilum victoria-regina

P. victoria-regina grows in damp humus among limestone boulders at an elevation of about 2000 metres in the mountains of Sumatra under conditions of heavy shade and high humidity. It is a large growing plant with dark green leaves up to 40cm long and 6cm wide, faintly veined and ciliate along basal margins, reddish colour on underside at base and along mid vein. Scape many flowered to 60cm long. Flowers about 7cm across opening in succession. Dorsal sepal circular, green with broad white upper margins; petals narrow, spreading, undulate, ciliate along margins, red at base changing to greenish yellow at tips; pouch large,

pointed yellow brightly stained with red. Intermediate to warm conditions, heavy shade. Flowering time spring/summer/autumn.

36 Seven Oaks Drive
Christchurch 5

NOTES FROM APOROSTYLIS

Great Conference! The standard all round was excellent. Some most interesting designs. Lovely large hall with ROOM for public! Not like Ellerslie - no overheating because of volume of venue. The Wellington weather looked after that of course - hyperthermia nearly got me on my way to the car a couple of times! Lecture theatre cold and poor acoustics. Good lectures more than made up for that. Commercial area looked cold and sad - with little or no signs to show where it was. Excellent car park, good organisation and willing people to iron out every little problem. Food at hall good but at the Wine and Cheese and Banquet - that's another story! Can't please everyone can you, but you did your best and we all enjoyed every minute of it!

Thanks Wellington Societies and Golden Coast for a memorable week!

Do you know why your display didn't win or only came second? It would be good to know where you went wrong. We know that labelling was important and heard rumours that the number of genera counted. Just how important were these and other points? How about an article on judging displays from someone who has ideas on the subject or from someone who did the judging of displays in Wellington?

We should all know by 1990!

Did you see the interesting peloric cymbidium on the Manawatu stand? By the end of the Conference it was fully out with 6 or 7 blooms.

It was a Firevieux seedling owned by Norm Wood of Palmerston North. In case you didn't notice it, it was that

cymbidium with 3 lips - almost perfect ones and the column was even triangular with no sign of where to put any pollen! You may have a "mule" there Norm!

Fun and games at the Banquet with some even having a smashing time! Unfortunately a beautiful procelain trophy of *Cattleya amethystoglossa* was brushed off the display table with tragic results. Keith Andrew found something incriminating in his luggage - sometimes confused with an orchid! Ron Maunder - worried about going home with a whisky decanter and silver teapot and tray - they say he's taken to drink at last! Andy Easton received a large wooden paddle - Chief Stirrer's Award no doubt! One of the worst features was waiting for taxi's in the street afterwards!

The Orchid Nurseries Association (ONA) of New Zealand was set up recently at a meeting during the Auckland Orchid Club Show and another during the Conference with BOGA (British Orchid Growers Association) guests Brian Rittershausen and Keith Andrew present. Chairman is Allan Patterson-Kane of Sun Valley Orchids, V.P. is Russell Hutton of L & R Orchids, and Secretary is Caryl Sellers of Cattleya Sellers. Area representatives were also appointed. Group advertising in the national media* and combined brochures is intended.

We trust this includes 'Orchids in N.Z.'. Ed.

A birds and bees demo attracted the crowds at the N.Z.O.S. August meeting when Andy Easton showed how it was done! Andy came armed with boxes of blooms from a range of genera and proceeded to mate them with plants on the display. His usual patter of comments and "stirring" absent and present friends held everyone's attention, as did the wealth of knowledge he imparted on why he crosses what with what. Cattleyas, odonts, miniatures, cymbids and others passed under his hand with some 25 crosses resulting - all with the hope that they might be winners in 1990! A novel idea indeed.

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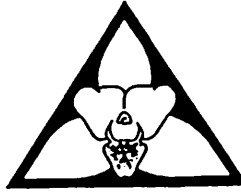
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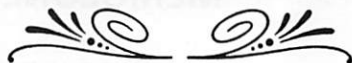
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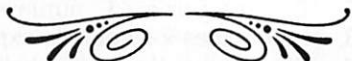
Sorry! No beautiful white
branching crispums yet, but they
are both pregnant - we hope!

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spikes with plenty of flowers! In the
meantime we have -

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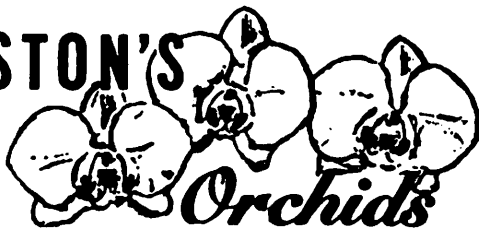
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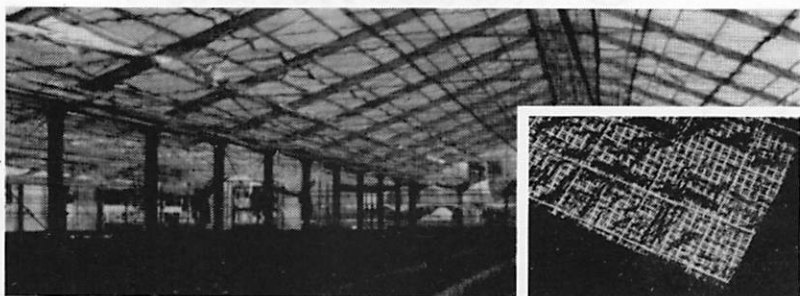
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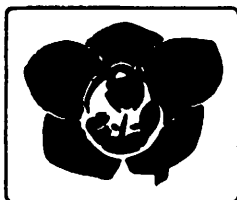
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PORTRAITS OF NEW ZEALAND ORCHID SPECIES



Thelymitra pauciflora
from Oratia, West Auckland

Photography: J. E. Braggins

Thelymitra pauciflora
from Ngatea, Hauraki Plains

Photography: Bob Goodger

The Genus *Thelymitra* is large and widely distributed, particularly in Australia. New Zealand has twelve species, a number of which occur in various shades of blue. *Thelymitra pauciflora* is usually lilac-pink, but two blue forms are illustrated here. One form (from Oratia) has unusual, striking orange column lobes.