

Orchids

IN NEW ZEALAND



Volume 12 — No. 4
July/August 1986

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Orchids

IN NEW ZEALAND

incorporating 'The New Zealand Orchid Review'

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

ORCHID COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND

NEW ZEALAND ORCHID SOCIETY

Vol. 12, No. 4

JULY/AUGUST 1986

CONTENTS

Conzed 12th Annual Report	118
2nd N.Z. International Orchid Conference, Report to Council	120
Orchid Hunting in the Solomon Islands - John Campbell	121
Editorial - New Wine in Old Bottles?	124
12th World Orchid Conference, Tokyo 1987	124
Conzed News	125
Society Information - Meetings	125
Orchid Foundation Trust Board (N.Z.)	127
A Case of Natural Pollination and Germination of Cymbidium Seed - A. A. Haszard	128
Is this a Record?	130
Celluloid Orchidry - J. C. Hoggard	132
N.Z.O.S. News Review	137
Francis Bauer (1758-1840) - Ian M. St. George	139
Annual Report of Registrar General	140
Reminiscences - Early Orchid Growers in Southland - John McDonald	141
Spring Shows	142

ILLUSTRATIONS

Cluster of <i>Cymbidium</i> protocorms and seedling	129
<i>Cymbidium</i> Doris	131
<i>Dendrobium lasianthera</i>	135
<i>D. lineale</i>	135
<i>Vanda</i> hybrid	135
<i>Vanda</i> hybrid	135
<i>Vanda</i> T.M.A.	136
<i>Dendrobium antennatum</i>	136
<i>Spathoglottis portus funschii</i>	136
<i>Pterostylis banksii</i>	138

FRONT COVER

Lycaste Wyld Court FCC/RHS. This classic lycaste hybrid is
(*Lucianii* x *skinneri*). This clone is probably 'Sir William Cooke'
FCC/RHS.

BACK COVER

Corybas aconitiflorus.
Corybas unguiculatus.
Photography: Bob Goodger.

Orchid Council of New Zealand (Inc.)

12th Annual Report for Year Ending 31st March 1986

This year has been an exciting one in many instances highlighted with a very successful second International Conference in Wellington where many participants from New Zealand and overseas enjoyed the sharing of Orchid knowledge and enthusiasm.

All members of the Executive have continued their positive and co-operative role within Council and I am certain that the strength and depth of Council's and Societies' roles within New Zealand will form a sound basis for the years to come especially with our World Orchid Conference in 1990.

Membership

Many Societies in New Zealand have a decline in membership over this last financial year but it is encouraging to see that some of the newer and smaller Societies are still developing and strengthening their operation. There are now 41 Societies affiliated to the Orchid Council and only three new Societies formed within the last two years who are intending to make application to affiliate in the forthcoming year. I welcome these new Societies to the Council and also extend our thanks to those Societies and Council members who have helped to encourage the formation of Societies in the outreaching areas of New Zealand. It is perhaps with the formation of these newer Societies closer to their home base that many of the larger Societies have a declining membership. However, a wide base and extensive coverage throughout New Zealand is an advantage to the promotion of orchids (and orchid growing) in New Zealand.

Finance

Funds for administration and development of Council is still and will always be of major concern. It is extremely difficult to operate within the income of Council; however, I am certain that the maximum is obtained from the resources we have available. It is with the continued and devoted attention of our Treasurer that the maximum from investments is obtained thus extending the income of Council.

Application for Grants from the Ministry of Sport and Recreation was received only for 1985 in Wellington and administration assistance was not received to Council funds.

To continue to increase capitation fees to Council together with the addition of G.S.T.

costs will create a considerable burden to some of the smaller and less financial Societies. It is proposed that the consideration of raising funds by a National raffle or other means may be a method of sharing in distributing the burden of heavy levies on individual Societies. It must be noted that many Societies consider capitation fees to be a large cost but in view of levies to National bodies by other Societies and Clubs our fees are extremely reasonable.

Orchids in New Zealand

I am sure that we have now developed a magazine that is equal to many of those overseas publications that will assist us in distributing our knowledge and development in the orchid world on a world wide basis.

This has not been without some difficulties and the deficit shown on the annual account reflects the costs that have had to be introduced to bring our magazine to the standard that it is now. To have an article to promote requires an article of quality to sell and I am certain that the efforts of the Magazine Committee reflect their achievement in this respect. It is now necessary, and I am sure it can be achieved, to recover the capital investment and we require the assistance of all members and magazine representatives throughout New Zealand to encourage and develop this aspect further. The prospect of a high direct market should encourage more advertisers to take in this publication and it is this field that needs greater concentration.

There are still areas of concern that need attention and perhaps specifically that of the time of publication. It is not a point that is unattended by the Magazine Committee and it is of deep concern especially to the Editors that delays are incurred in these areas. I wish to point out that the magazine relies heavily on volunteer services much of which is undertaken after hours and I feel that we have to be a little careful as to the pressure we bear on these people endeavouring to produce an excellent publication.

Council is receiving many letters of congratulations and the assistance by way of donations to the Colour Fund, must be in appreciation to the development of 'Orchids in New Zealand'. I would thank sincerely the assistance of Ron Maunder, the Chairman, and our Editors Nick and Liz Miller and the co-operation of our printer, Mr Bill Deed, for their

services rendered to 'Orchids in New Zealand'. It is a mammoth undertaking and only those who are involved with this production know the difficulties in producing the publication we have.

Judging

The standards of judging orchids are now becoming more uniform throughout all of the judging regions. Recent National seminars have verified this matter and we can be assured that in the years to come competent and experienced judges will perform and be equal to those standards set down on a world recognised basis. The redrafting of the rules is currently taking place to tidy up and complete the present judging handbook. This is a laborious, time-consuming task, but necessary for streamlining and setting standards to meet market trends.

The ratification of awards is still causing some delays but now that our new Registrar is familiar with and establishing a ratification system, we hope this difficulty should be rectified in this forthcoming year. Again it is not always the judging system that creates difficulties, as it also relies heavily on the co-operation of individual members to operate efficiently.

1985 Conference Wellington

The staging of our second International Conference seems to have taken place only a short while ago as many memories of this successful Conference will remain in our minds for some considerable time. It is very pleasing to see at an event such as this all Societies and orchid people working successfully together to stage an extremely attractive Show. The difference between our first International Conference and the latter was considerable and the remarks especially from those overseas visitors as to the development both in the range of genera and the quality of blooms displayed was extremely gratifying. I am sure that all those overseas visitors will look forward to a successful World Conference here in 1990.

On behalf of Council and all its affiliated Societies we would like to congratulate those host Societies from the Wellington region in staging this event. It was a new experience for many of those Societies and members from the southern area and the co-operation, friendship, and knowledge shared make all the effort worthwhile.

World Orchid Conference

Preliminary planning of this event is now well under way with the major aspects of promotion and finance receiving most attention to date. It is intended to regularly promote New Zealand on the International scene starting with the Australian Conference in Adelaide this year and then the 12th World Orchid Conference in Japan in 1987. Financial planning and internal fund raising where consideration of some three

where consideration of some three to four hundred thousand dollars will be needed to stage this event will need careful planning and discussion and I am certain that the co-operation of all Societies and orchid growers throughout New Zealand will endeavour to assist the Planning Committee in this area.

Liaison

Continual contact is now being established with the American Orchid Society, Australian Orchid Council and other national orchid bodies to enable trends in progress to be recognised and shared throughout the orchid world. Roy Clareburt, undertaking this aspect, will report on items of interest.

I was fortunate to attend the official opening of Fleur International Orchid Gardens, where I met and enjoyed the pleasure of meeting the President of the American Orchid Society, Mr Steve Stevenson. Discussions in regard to New Zealand's standing on the orchid scene and our future developments were shared with him and I am certain that the assistance of the American Orchid Society will be given in the promotion towards our World Conference.

South Island

This continues to be an area of development and new Societies formed in the South Island are now developing with reasonable success in many areas of orchid growing. Executive personnel have visited these Societies recently and assisted with the requirements of general society formation, monthly programmes and judging assistance. The inter-relationship between Societies in the South Island is now developing and although travelling distances creates difficulties greater contact is now being undertaken by many members throughout this area. Further development of seminars and discussion groups can only see growth and development in the South Island area.

Orchid Research

Further to Council's decisions to prevent the endangerment of our native species a Grant has been made to the D.S.I.R. to undertake trials and tests to establish germination of native orchids from seed to assist in the protection of our native orchids.

Conclusion

Council administration and promotion still endeavours to be a challenge as many aspects of development are really limited by finance. It is of concern that we perhaps are not able to liaise and link with Societies as much as they feel we need to. This year many of the Council Executive have visited Societies throughout the Country and given their assistance and promoted individually the objects and tasks undertaken by Council. We are endeavouring to establish funds to assist overseas speakers on lectures to Societies throughout New Zealand

and the initial response from those member Societies approached has been extremely encouraging.

The assistance of perhaps providing funds from national raffles, etc., is also being considered and will be presented to Societies for their consideration.

I wish to extend thanks to all Executive and especially our Secretary, Mrs Pearl Martin, and our Treasurer, Mr Martin Clark, for their continued efforts in the administration of Council affairs. The large membership of Societies and the continual growth of new developments have made their tasks quite demanding at times and perhaps have resulted in some delays in forwarding information to individuals. Without their efforts the activities of the Council could not be undertaken.

We are saddened by the loss of devoted orchid personalities during the year and our respects should be paid to the Past President, Mr Tom French, Immediate Past Registrar General, Mr John Mason, and Mr Frank Askin. Their attention and devotion to the New Zealand Orchid scene and all aspects of Council activities from the initial establishment of the Council, is something that we should all be grateful for.

The co-operation of individuals and commercial orchid growers throughout New Zealand in the promotion and enjoyment of orchids will continue and we look forward to a bright future in the hobby or business we all indeed enjoy.

Happy Orchid Growing.

D. K. Bell
President

Second N.Z. International Orchid Conference Report to Council

The Organising Committee of the Second N.Z. Orchid Conference has completed its work, and we are pleased to enclose our cheque for \$9,768.60 and a financial summary showing how this amount is made up.

At the final meeting of our Committee it was agreed that the remaining funds (represented by our enclosed cheque)

“be passed to the Orchid Council of New Zealand, to be applied equally to

- (i) the administration of judging in New Zealand,
- (ii) the Colour Fund of ‘Orchids in New Zealand’, and
- (iii) preliminary expenses to the 1990 World Conference”

and we ask that you make the necessary arrangements. I will be sending you the Minute Book of our meetings for the Council’s records.

We would like to record our appreciation of the prompt and generous response from Orchid Societies throughout New Zealand when we appealed for loans and donations to provide the cash flow needed to mount the Conference.

In the event we have been able to repay all loans with interest and to make travel assistance contributions to those Societies who mounted displays at the Conference.

There is no doubt that the outstanding success of the event was due to the confidence placed in the Organising Committee by Orchid Societies, and by their contribution of time and effort in support of us. It would be appreciated if you could arrange the widest possible publicity to this appreciation, either by circular to Societies or through “Orchids in New Zealand”.

Could you please also make appropriate report to the Ministry of Recreation and Sport, who provided a grant and some financial cover to the event.

In conclusion, it has been a rewarding exercise for all those involved in the organisation, and we wish the Council well for the 1990 World Conference.

J. S. Addison
Secretary

Orchid Hunting in the Solomon Islands

John Campbell



How does one record three trips covering 16 weeks orchid hunting in tropical jungles dripping with orchids, smothered in all sorts of other interesting plants, laced with dozens of Hoya vines, festooned with ants just looking for a tender European skin? How can one leave out the myraids of beautiful butterflies, dragon flies, fire flies, beetles of brilliant hues and spiders to match?

How do you convey to readers your first and subsequent encounters with various snakes, some poisonous, sleeping with cockroaches and worse still the hunting spiders which track them down at night? They sound like mice running and are darned near as big and hairy. How many people have slept in a grass hut infested with rats which spent all night trying to get into your tucker while all the village pigs congregate under your floor fighting for space which will contain only half of them!

Should the violent war history of the Pacific Islands be ignored? How can you when you see downed bombers' skeletons lying in remote mountain streams, wrecked ships and landing craft scattered along shorelines, foxholes still visible along jungle trails, layers of vicious bomb shrapnel scattered over ridges where men of many nations fought and died in some of the worst fighting in World War II?

Could a lover of nature write about such a paradise and ignore the dozens of bird species? Floundering great hornbills, multi-coloured parakeets by the hundreds, climbing pheasants, raucous crows, soaring eagles -another whole world.

How do you convey the feeling of utter isolation experienced when through bravado, stupidity or a yearning for adventure (or all three), you take off alone for the interior of an

unknown island, among unknown people, some of which were cannibals less than 100 years ago? It's difficult to put in print the feeling of relief experienced when one is accepted into a remote, almost stone age, village as an honoured guest. The people of the remote villages were just so good to me, especially on my earlier trips. Changes in the political climate have made some areas quite difficult to get into now.

How about voyages between islands in 30 ft. open canoes, driven by ageing and spluttering outboard motors? Some trips were as far as 30 miles to islands barely visible on the horizon travelling over coral reefs known to be the lairs of man-eating sharks. A few years back, a woman was taken in two feet of water while she was bathing her baby, which she was able to throw to the sand before she disappeared. You would never get me in that water! But never underestimate the lure of the tropics. On the last trip I was snorkelling on a reef five miles from the nearest land, admittedly with a belly full of butterflies, but what a kaleidoscope of colour in those tropical fish, shells and coral.

"Careful as you climb the steep trails, don't pull yourself up on small saplings as there may be a centipede on the other side". "Can't recall anyone dying from a snake bite in the last 30 years, but a few people have

died from centipede bites". "The wild pigs can be a bit unpredictable at times, the odd person has been gored by an enraged pig". Little snippets of local information which help to build your confidence!

Well, in spite of all this, the most threatening thing I encountered was a human being. One of the local men over-supplied with imported 4X Australian beer. He almost went berserk and at one point grabbed up my big bush knife and in fairly descriptive pidgin English, told me what he would do with it.

So, if I simply wrote about the orchids I saw it would read like a quiet walk through a botanic garden, whereas in actual fact it has been a serious of adventures.

Every South Island Orchid Society has heard part of my story, as I have spoken to them all; so it all seems like old hat to me now. However, I must admit the pulse quickens when I read through my well recorded trip diaries once again.

My introduction to the Solomon Islands was through my very close friend the late Digby Graham. In his quest to track down and paint all the known *Paphiopedilum* species, he followed up a brief report of a slipper orchid found in the Solomon Islands. He eventually contacted a Mr Geoff Dennis, the man responsible for the discovery, and as Digby and I frequently saw each other, it was inevitable Geoff and I should make contact. We exchanged letters for several years and the tales Geoff told stirred my interest to an obsession to visit the Islands.

After a couple of years planning and saving hard I was ready to go. I'd saved so hard in fact that I was able to take my oldest daughter along with me. We travelled via Australia both ways, so I could pick up plants and flasks there as well and stayed with another orchid correspondent, Mr Peter Tsang, a great lover of Hoya and

Carnivorous plants, as well as orchids.

Finally we arrived in Honiara, the capital of the Solomon Islands, in a temperature which left us gasping. Geoff and a couple of his sons were at the airport to meet us and the sterile flasks of orchids I had, attracted considerable interest from the local Customs Officers.

Henderson Airfield was an American Air Base during the war and consisted of thousands of 10 ft. by 2 ft. metal plates clipped together to form a landing surface. These rusting relics still give great service as fences, benches, barbecues and whatever, the runway now being tar-sealed.

At Geoff's home we were greeted by Norah, his wife (formerly an inhabitant of Santa Ana Island, far to the South East), and two charming little girls who soon became favourites of Pupu John (Uncle). Norah's sister, Taasi, also lived with the family and proved to be a great friend for Susan, who really fell in love with the Solomon Islands. We were fortunate that Geoff had a large home and had set aside a room for Susan and I during our stay.

His acre of garden is virtually a botanic garden filled with palms from all over the world, tropical fruit and nut trees and many flowering and ornamental trees and shrubs. Mounted on the trees and posts is an array of orchids and bromeliads which would make any enthusiast drool. Quite a few of the orchids are *Cattleya* alliance, which are generally difficult to flower in the tropical heat though a few do oblige regularly. *Phalaenopsis* do quite well mounted on trees but the succulent flesh and flower spikes are devastated by the larvae of a little blue butterfly. It was a thrill to see some of the plants I had bred and sent to Geoff, established and growing so well on his trees. A *Doritaenopsis*, in particular, fascinated me. It had three leaves about 10 cm long and roots

running up and down the trees, as much as two metres from the plant.

Honiara is on an uplifted ridge of coral limestone which is very well drained and although the rainfall is quite high, it is also a hot and dry locality not particularly suited to many orchid species. Hardcane Dendrobiums and Vandaceous plants like *Arachnis* and terete leaved Vandas do very well there. The two common local orchids are *Dendrobium gouldii*, an antelope (Ceratobium section) type with beautiful golden yellow petals tipped with dark brown, and *Gramatophyllum scriptum* with large Cymbidium-like bulbs, leaves rather like a large *Coelogyne* and long arching flower spikes of Cymbidium-like flowers, a lime green shade with tan markings. These two plants can be seen growing strong in full sun on the topmost branches of huge dead trees which have been killed by ring barking carried out by local gardeners while clearing land. Plants of both are available in plenty from felled trees and seedlings are commonly found on lower branches where they can be readily collected. The *Gramatophyllum* will grow into a plant as large as a standard Cymbidium and as the flowers are not very striking, I have not collected any. There is an almost clear yellow form which is quite nice and I have heard that Cymbidiums and *Gramatophyllum* have been crossed with the aim of creating a heat-tolerant Cymbidium, but I have no written proof of such a cross.

In the moister coastal valleys quite a range of orchids can be found, Dendrobiums of the *Latourea* section, such as *D. macrophyllum* and relatives. (See centre page 99, Vol. 12, No. 3). Quite a number of species in this section have coarsely-haired flower buds, almost prickly looking and the seed capsules look just like gooseberries. *Dendrobium antennatum* is common in the coastal

areas ranging up to New Guinea and I think across to Australia. It is an attractive plant, keeping to what I consider a manageable size of 30 cm to 45 cm, an antelope type with yellow/green petals.

An attractive vandaceous plant, *Ascoglossum calopterum* can be found in coastal areas but is not commonly seen as it grows high in heavily shrouded trees. The flowers are small but an attractive dark pink to maroon and make quite a display on their branched stems.

Collecting in the coastal areas where there was heavy fighting is not without its hazards. Unexploded bombs, mortars, and hand grenades can be encountered and should not be disturbed in any way. Some are very unstable and can explode with the slightest jolt.

Centipedes were a hazard in the lowland areas years back but the introduction of cane toads to the Solomons has caused a great reduction in their numbers. On wet nights it is difficult to sleep for the racket kicked up by the raucous croaking of mating toads. They have completely taken over some areas to the detriment of other species of fauna. They are poisonous at all stages so birds and fish which eat the tadpoles can die and because they are so prolific they compete with native frogs. The adults have two large glands behind their eyes and these exude a white poisonous substance if they are attacked. One day when I was strolling in the Botanic Gardens I walked into a small shaded side valley and the whole area was alive with these ugly brutes, simply hundreds of them.

The Botanic Garden was started after the war when Geoff worked for the Australian Government. It was virtually a single-handed effort by Geoff and it is most interesting to stroll around with him while he recounts stories of progress. A

shade-house contained a good selection of local orchids and their varieties in the past, but of recent years, only the toughest have survived the neglect.

A large percentage of the beautiful flowering trees planted in the town were introduced by Geoff, so he has a great stake in the country.

Such was our introduction to the Solomon Islands.

In a future article I will deal with various areas in which we collected.

21 Blakes Road
Prebbleton
Canterbury



EDITORIAL

OLD WINE IN NEW BOTTLES?

A feature of the orchid scene in recent years has been the revival of interest in some long-neglected, but deserving groups of orchids.

Recent issues of "The Orchid Review" (to which all enthusiastic orchid growers should subscribe) have contained: a most interesting article on the breeding of pure-colour (or albino) *Odontoglossums* (i.e. *odontoglossums* with no red colouring in the flowers); a series on the breeding of *Pleines* (in Britain these are often regarded as rock garden plants rather than orchids) - the newer hybrids should spark a surge of interest in these delightful little plants; a series in the genus *Calanthe* and its hybrids (some seventy hybrids bred before 1941, none since then); and a series titled "Epidendrum - the Neglected Genus," examining another group of orchidaceous 'orphans'.

This trend is to be heartily commended. Life does not consist entirely of cymbidiums and miniature cattleyas, and there are a number of unjustly neglected orchid groups waiting to be popularised. Perhaps among our readers there is someone dabbling in a little known field? If so, we hope that person will bring his or her work before our readers, through the pages of "Orchids in New Zealand."

12th World Orchid Conference - Tokyo 1987

With the next World Orchid Conference coming along next year in March, comes a great opportunity and ready made excuse to visit that most foreign of places, Japan. It is guaranteed to be an experience that will be unusual, enjoyable and give pleasant memories for years to come. Japan and especially Tokyo is so totally different to New Zealand and cities in New Zealand.

The New Zealand Orchid Society is co-ordinating a tour to encourage as many from New Zealand as possible to attend the conference and act as Ambassadors to attract interest for our own New Zealand World Orchid Conference in 1990.

The proposed tour to Japan is attached to a ready made packaged tour with the advantage that tour members can elect nine days just for the conference at \$1570 (twin room basis) or 16 days for the conference and to see more of Japan for \$2099 (twin room basis). On top of these costs add for Conference costs and optional tours and meals. There are also other more widespread tour options open to you.

Attendance at an International Orchid event is a tremendous way of recharging your interest in Orchids and Orchid growing. You will mix, discuss and argue with other Orchid-growers. You will compare growing methods, successes and failures, and there will be different Orchids to compare notes on. Make up your minds quickly to be part of this conference. Time for making arrangements for you is short.

This may be the only written advice you receive on this tour so please indicate your interest now to the Tour Co-ordinator, who will then forward you further information as the Tour develops.

Ray Dix
N.Z.O.S. Tour Co-ordinator
52 Lawrence Crescent
Manurewa

CONZED NEWS

At the Annual General Meeting of the Orchid Council of New Zealand, held in Whangarei on Saturday 21st June 1986, the following Officers were elected:

Patron: His Excellency the Right Reverend Sir Paul Reeves

President: Mr Darrell Bell

Vice-Presidents: Mr Ron Maunder,
Mr Syd Wray

Secretary: Mrs Pearl Martin

Treasurer: Mr Martin Clark

Executive Committee:

Mr Des Leahy
Mr Roy Clareburt
Mrs Judy Coburn
Mrs Edna Newton
Mr Ron Roy
Mrs Patricia Elms
Prof. Dennis Bonham

A national raffle has been proposed to raise funds for future Conzed activities, including 1990 World Orchid Conference promotion.

Council propose to establish a 'Travel Fund' to import overseas speakers to New Zealand on a 'lecture tour'. A speaker would visit several Societies and would be looked after by the Society in their area. A 'Travel Fund' of loans contributed by Societies would be able to meet the otherwise prohibitive travel costs. Details are being considered.

The 4th South Island Orchid Seminar will be held 2nd - 4th October 1987, at the Ascot Hotel, Invercargill.

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

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., Ohaewai.

BAY OF PLENTY

Meet 2nd Sunday of month. Secretary:
Mrs W. F. Fitzgibbons, P.O. Box 478, Te Puke.
Phone: 420-988.

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, P.O.Box 3839, Wellington.
Phone: 872-153.

CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA

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

DANNEVIRKE & DISTRICT

Meet 2nd Monday of month. Secretary:
Mrs V. Holdaway, 16 Albert Street,
Dannevirke.

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. Secretary:
Mrs H. C. Topp, 42 Manuka Street, Stokes
Valley, Lower Hutt.

KAITAIA

Meet 2nd Wednesday of month. Secretary:
Mr T. Hansen, 14 Davis Street, Kaitaia.

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:
Ms L. Smith, P.O.Box 207, Oamaru.

NORTH SHORE

Meet 1st Sunday of month. Secretary:
Mrs R. M. Bradford, P.O.Box 33-493,
Takapuna, Auckland 9.

OTAGO

Meet 4th Wednesday of month. Secretary:
Mrs C. Garry, 4 Tilburn Street, Halfway Bush,
Dunedin.

POVERTY BAY EAST COAST

Meet 2nd Monday of month. Secretary:
Mr Harold Bayram, P.O.Box 795, Gisborne.
Phone: (079) 79-400.

ROTORUA

Meet 1st Sunday of month. Secretary:
Mr A. Holt, P.O.Box 323, Rotorua. Phone:
86-534.

SOUTH AUCKLAND

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

SOUTH CANTERBURY

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

SOUTH TARANAKI

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

SOUTHLAND

Meet 1st Tuesday of month. Secretary:
Mr A. Irving, Waimatua, R.D.2., Invercargill.

STRATFORD ORCHID CLUB

Meet 1st Tuesday of month. Secretary:
Mrs J. Pattinson, Bird Street, Stratford.

TARANAKI

Meet 2nd Tuesday of month. Secretary:
Mr G. Boon, 30b Waiwaka Terrace, New
Plymouth.

TAUPO

Meet 3rd Tuesday of month. Secretary:
Mrs D. Gordon, 16 Simpkin Street, Taupo.

TAURANGA

Meet 3rd Tuesday of month. Secretary:
Mrs A. Currie, Maruia Place, R.D.6., Tauranga.
Phone: 25-505.

THAMES VALLEY

Meet last Sunday of month. Secretary:
Ms J. Dare, P.O.Box 319, Thames.

TOKOROA AND DISTRICTS

Meet 4th Wednesday of month. Secretary:
Mrs D. M. Wilson, P.O.Box 528, 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 I. Booth, P.O.Box 302, Masterton.

WAIROA

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

WANGANUI

Meet 1st Wednesday of month. Secretary: Mrs
F. Harvey, 46 College Street, Wanganui.
Phone: 55-092.

WARKWORTH & DISTRICTS

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

WELLINGTON

Meet 1st Monday of month. Secretary: Mrs G. Robinson, 85a Park Road, Belmont, Lower Hutt.

WEST COAST

Secretary: Miss E. Pike, 24 Sturge Street, Cobden, Greymouth.

WESTPORT

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

WHANGAREI

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

Orchid Foundation Trust Board (N.Z.)

The Orchid Foundation Trust Board (N.Z.) was incorporated as a Charitable Trust on the 21st September 1982.

The main object of the Trust is to promote, preserve and assist in the cultivation and scientific study of orchids throughout the world and the advancement of education and learning about orchids, their growth and propagation.

At the time of incorporation notification of this and the aims and objectives was sent to all Universities and scientific establishments in New Zealand. No interest was shown until late last year when the D.S.I.R. in Palmerston North requested funds to assist in research in the germination and growing on of our native orchids. The programme called for germination of seeds in the conventional manner by flasking leading up to investigation of the symbiotic seed germination. The latter method, pioneered by Dr. Mark Clements in Australia, involves the germination in association with a mycorrhizal fungus particular to the

orchid. This method will be investigated in relation to those orchids which so far have defied germination attempts by the use of conventional flasking methods. Initial reports of the research have been encouraging and the first results will form the basis of an article in this magazine in the near future.

The Trustees of the Foundation have agreed to fund \$2,500.00 to assist this project.

A frequently asked question is "Why bother with our native orchids as they have no commercial value". The question, a product of our materialistic age is understandable. However, the short answer could be in the form of another question. "Why bother with the Chatham Island Robin, the Takahe, the Golden Eagle, the Panda and the ever lengthening list of endangered orchid species in South America, India and S.E. Asia"?

The Trust is not solely concerned with conservation.

Orchid Societies, scientific establishments and orchid growers who contemplate projects which meet the above objectives are invited to apply for assistance. Funds are limited, the yearly income of the Trust is about \$3,000.00 at present.

Donations to the Trust are of course welcome. The Inland Revenue Department has approved that donations will be tax deductible in the hands of the donor within statutory limits.

Applications and donations should be forwarded to:

J. Hart
24 Albany Highway
Glenfield
Auckland 10

Trustees for the year 1986/87 are Mr Des Leahy, Mr Roy Clareburt and Mr J. Hart (Honorary Secretary).

A Case of Natural Pollination and Germination of Cymbidium Seed

A. A. Haszard
Howick Orchid Society

Prior to Dr. Lewis Knudsons' development, in 1922, of the laboratory method of orchid seed germination, the results of alternative methods were very much hit or miss. The symbiosis of seed and Mycorrhizal fungi to effect germination was well recognised and thus resulted in a multitude of systems in an attempt to duplicate and improve upon nature. (See Rebecca Northern's "Home Orchid Growing" - Page 96).

In the summer of 1983-84 I unwittingly initiated a train of events that was to surprise and delight me in early February 1986. Firstly, I had planted three mature Cymbidiums in the convenient fork of a *Casuarina* (Sheoke) tree on my section. They were, Pipeta Magenta (Min. red), Susette (Std. red) and a very ancient hybrid noted for its long arching spikes of 25 plus flowers and its tendency to set numerous seed pods. Secondly, that same year it became necessary to remove a huge *Grevillea robusta* (Australian Silky Oak) that was dominating both mine and my neighbour's section. With a view to utilising the timber for firewood and the bark for orchid mounts or decorative purposes, a good proportion of the Silky Oak was stacked in a corner to dry out under the Casuarina.

The 1984 season provided a display of flowers in the Casuarina and a few seed pods on the old hybrid and these I left to their own devices. The 1985 season produced an even better show of sixteen spikes, eleven of them from Susette. Discounting the inevitable damage done by a Tui in its persistent efforts to draw nectar from the flowers, I was well satisfied with the arboreal orchid culture.

Came February 1986 and a request from my wife for some good

decorative bark. I hied me out to the cache of logs and branches and proceeded to haul out the most likely looking pieces. The heap had a generous coating of old leaves, Casuarina needles, with twitch and paspalum growing through. An hour or so later I had a selection of magnificent looking bark. Before peeling, each section had to be cleared of leaves, twitch, etc. The variety of livestock competing for house-room on and under the bark was amazing. Slaters, cockroaches, weta and hoppers, assorted beetles, borer grubs and spiders. Small toadstools and other fungi, including some appearing as clusters of yellowish green spheres about 5mm in diameter, were numerous. All this rubbish was disposed of in short order and I was peeling off the last section when there, peeping through a clump of twitch was a three-leafed Cymbidium seedling, about 100mm in height, complete with the initial root of some 50mm and secondary roots forming. At the base of the seedling was a cluster of yellowish green protocorms about 5mm in diameter.

Protocorms? Yellow green fungi . . . ? OH NO!! It was too late. When cleaning off the rubbish I had, in my ignorance, destroyed several clusters of protocorms. Cymbids don't



Cluster of protocorms clearly showing two leaf shoots and two roots.

propagate naturally in New Zealand so why **should** I have recognised them? In a mad search for survivors I examined every inch of the bark. Perfectly camouflaged by a covering of fine detritus was a group of four protocorms two of which were showing growth shoots of 5-10mm long. Nearby was a single one equally well hidden and on another piece a cluster of two. Including the seven or eight clusters destroyed I estimate that there would have been 30 or 40 protocorms. Not a bad effort for Mother Nature. There may yet be more as I have left the rest of the heap undisturbed.

To me, as a comparative novice grower, the episode is unique and those "old hands" to whom I have spoken, though evincing no great surprise, have admitted they have not heard of a similar case. I would be interested to hear of any similar occurrences.

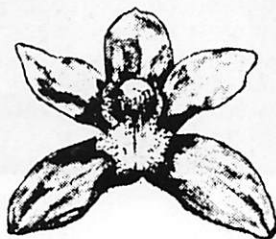
The seedlings are probably 'selfings' of the old hybrid and of no value but I shall endeavour to take them through to flowering in which case I shall call them by the perfectly logical name of, 'Howick Surprise' var. 'Haphazard'.

3 Glenfern Road
Howick

February 1986



The 100mm seedling showing the roots still firmly attached to the Silky Oak bark.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR



Is This a Record?

Occasionally an unusual specimen orchid or perhaps a plant showing extraordinary features of size, floriferousness and culture, makes it worthwhile to issue a challenge to all orchid growers to equal or better.

On the 8th June 1985 a group of N.Z.O.S. Judges was invited to view a plant of *Cymbidium* DORIS grown by Mrs Thelma Hogan in her Papatoetoe garden.

Thelma has for some years been the Librarian for the N.Z. Orchid Society and her competitive orchid interests have been mainly in Floral Act but she also has a moderate collection of well grown mixed genera under glass and shade.

Older members will remember her as Thelma Harvie but after the untimely death of Jack, her first husband, she married Bill Hogan, a well known South Auckland personality. Bill takes a very keen interest in the carefully tended grounds and lawns of their residence - formerly part of an old golf course tending in years gone by towards swampiness in which many cabbage trees grew, but where the soil is now a fertile peaty loam.

Now, trim lawns, flowering shrubs and some large trees flourish around the house. These points are mentioned to describe the growing conditions. The only added plant food came from the odd squirt of nutrient in spring and summer, nothing regular except lashings of "Magic Water". Thelma had been given the original propagation by the late Mr George Denning of Otahuhu, just after World War II (about 40 years ago!), but this plant was a further division and had only been growing in its present situation for about 15 years.



Cymbidium Doris grown by Mrs T. Hogan.

Photography: A. Day.

DORIS is a primary cross of *C. insigne* and *C. tracyanum*, first registered by McBeans of England in 1912 when it was awarded an FCC/RHS. It was used extensively in early days as a plant breeder apparently without leaving anything much outstanding in its progeny.

The originally awarded plant was described as a yellow but the plant that was to be viewed had flowers of peachy yellow lightly overlaid with brickly red striping - a distinct *tracyanum* look. The segments were predictably "wingy" like most of the early hybrids. There were quite a few clones around 15 to 20 years ago and the main claim to fame was always "floriferousness and early blooming".

The panel that day consisted of Joyce Underwood, Hazel Hanson, Alf Day, Tony Ballard and Des Leahy. Between them there was a wealth of Judging experience but to put it mildly, what they were to see literally "stopped them in their tracks".

There, growing in the soil under a shady Jacaranda tree on the lawn (its tub had long ago rotted away) was this massive display of colour.

The maximum leaf spread was just under 4 metres (12 ft. 4 ins. to be exact and approximately 1.5 metres high (about 5 ft.). There were 47 spikes, all in bloom with between 14 and 33 flowers each (averaging approximately 26 per spike!) - the total count, 1,214 blooms, only a few of which were bee pollinated.

Alright, you may say - it was a pretty big plant but here is the amazing part. The foliage was exceptionally clean and there were NO VISIBLE BACKBULBS!

Congratulations to Thelma, it was unanimously granted a Certificate for Cultural excellence.

Can anyone top that one off? Doc

The following letter from the Secretary of the Otago Orchid Club to

Ron Maunder, of Tauranga, was passed on to us.

Do any other areas have a similar problem? Share your experiences with us.

We note that the far south of the South Island is closer to the equator than any part of the mainland of Great Britain, where perfectly acceptable Cymbidiums are grown. Editors

"We are still having trouble flowering Cymbidiums, in fact most of us have almost decided to eliminate them from our collections. We can flower all the other genera with satisfactory results, but the Cymbidiums are a washout. You may remember we discussed the problem at our last meeting, and you suggested lack of direct sunlight as a contributing factor. We are suffering the same fate this year. Average summer temperatures 2°C higher than usual, but sunshine hours a disaster. Total for February, our normally sunniest month, 97 hours. This is the lowest number of hours for 50 years, by about 70% of normal. High temperatures and continually overcast. This has been normal for 4-5 years now and these are the years when we have had such poor luck with the Cymbidiums. Prior to this period I was having reasonable success.

You suggested 1770 hours direct sunlight as a requirement for flowering Cymbidiums. Our average 1695, but the last 4-5 years have had 1630-1640 hours, a significant drop below the minimum necessary.

I am not alone in my troubles, all the amateur growers in the Club suffer the same fate. Our recent September Exhibition had only two or three Cymbidiums grown in the Dunedin area - all the others came in from outlying districts, Milton, Queenstown and Oamaru.

*M. L. Young
61 Argyle Street
Mosgiel"*

Celluloid Orchidry

J. C. Hoggard

There are a multitude of ways to which photography of orchids can be effected.

There are a multitude of diverse results from each of the various avenues utilised.

There are, sadly, not so many really good photos resulting from the time, effort, film and equipment which usage may suggest.

Photography of orchids very basically falls into two categories. For the vast majority of orchid lovers, professional and amateur alike, the most common approach is carrying a camera to the garden, local orchid nursery, local/national orchid show, display garden or studio and attacking whatever takes priority or fancy with the said camera. Conditions vary to some degree but can most certainly be classed as almost "clinical" when compared to the second approach which entails travel from "civilised" areas to the virgin forest/swamp/mountain areas in search of the elusive dream or rare "achievement" somewhere below the title: "Reasonable Orchid Photo". An orchid in a natural environment must first be found. Once "found", this self same orchid - through necessity - requires a group of petals attached somewhere along a stem to allow photography of the bloom to even begin!

Perchance one has ventured into the swamp land during this pursuit the excitement and amusement value is definitely increased should a quick glance confirm the vague feelings that one is up to one's ears in leaches, snakes, malaria infested mosquitoes and a group of hungry 'gators. Priorities must be seen to prevail. Remember to complete the photography section!!

Reasonable results, intermingled with an occasional very good photo, can be accomplished by most people who own and use a camera - so long as certain basic guidelines are adhered to. Equipment requirements depend entirely upon personal choice, intended

application/usage, or the funding limit applied. Suffice to mention therefore that intending buyers always purchase lenses (in particular) of the best quality they can afford and, to a lesser extent, use this same advice when looking at cameras. Variations of film size and speed *do* produce variations in the final print regarding clarity or definition of a subject. Very simply, a 110 format camera, although capable of producing good results in good conditions, is out performed by the very popular 35mm camera which in turn is out classed by the medium and large format cameras. "Slow" film (25ASA or 64ASA) produces better definition than medium/high speed film (400ASA) but requires more light. Any photographic or camera shop can supply information regarding choice of film and respective characteristics.

General Guidelines

NEVER HURRY . . . Orchids are not noted as being natural walkers. Emphasis regarding an unhurried approach can not be over stressed. Look at the subject objectively from various angles - both sideways and vertically - to ensure a view from which the bloom is most enhanced.

LIGHT . . . Sufficient light is a necessity. Ordinarily the position of the sun can not be altered, therefore, the subject or the camera (or both) must be repositioned to achieve suitable effects. Modern lenses do not require the sun to be positioned behind the photographer, indeed the sun may be at almost any angle (sun to subject to camera) so long as the subject is well bathed in light and small to minute features, e.g. veins

through a petal, etc., are clearly defined. Morning light to about 10 o'clock is a clean fine light and ideal for photography, whereas the midday-afternoon light becomes more a hard light producing enormous differences between highlight and shadow areas. Occasionally dark shadow can be used to advantage by providing stark contrast between two sections of a flower, or alternatively, between the subject matter and the background/foreground. If an angle of lighting (sun to subject to camera) need be quoted in general terms as a guideline, start with approximately 45° and work away from there to whatever positions are available. NEVER EVER place the subject directly between the camera lens and sun as irreparable damage can be done to the eye.

Filters

These are too numerous to study in detail and by and large are not useful enough to be classed as essential. Two exceptions of note for orchid lovers are the polarising filter, to enhance the exceptions or note for orchid lovers are the polarising filter, to enhance the richness of colour through minimising reflection, and a centre spot filter. The latter allows removal of unwanted rubbish around the edges of a photograph as well as displaying the subject most prominently in centre stage. Always fit a Skylight 1.B or UV filter for general photography to reduce or eliminate damage to the lens should the camera receive a severe bump at the front end.

Bracketing

Probably the only fail-safe method to ensure the photographer *DOES* get a reasonably good "Shot" of the orchid that was only encountered once in their lifetime. Bracketing can also produce unexpected but pleasant results, totally unforeseen at time of "shooting". Four methods are available:

1. Having taken the initial photograph in the normal manner, alter the f-stop to half an f-stop over that

used with the first photograph, then alter the f-stop to half a position under that of the first photograph. Should the reader still have doubts, then go further to either 1 or 2 f-stops either side of the original setting.

2. Enabling the depth of field to be maintained, can be achieved quite simply by taking the first "shot" at the desired shutter speed (1/125 sec.) (1/250 or 1/500 sec. if conditions are windy) then taking the second and third "shots" at one setting faster and one setting slower respectively, than the initial shutter speed. Use a common f-stop setting for all three frames.
3. A means to an end with automatic cameras. Again take the initial "shot" as normally performed. For the second and third photographs alter the A.S.A. setting to half a setting under that used for the initial "shot", followed by half a setting over that used for the initial "shot".
4. Finally, with the note that this does *NOT* work with automatic cameras or cameras set on Auto(matic) mode, use neutral density filters or a polarising filter. Neutral density filters reduce light (ND 1 - ½ stop ND2 = 1 stop). Utilising an ND 1 filter, take the first photograph, remove the filter and take the second photograph, then fit the ND 2 filter for the third photograph, utilising the ND1 settings for all three shots.

Reader speculation regarding film useage after glancing through this section can well be appreciated, but really it is not as serious as is at first presumed. Normally only three or four photographs would be required to ensure that a particular orchid is recorded. Alternatively, be not fainthearted and enjoy the knowledge that a photographer on assignment in South Africa from National Geographic managed to capture 6,500 (approximately) shots during a six

month period - of which five were ultimately printed. The author recently managed 550 (approximately) frames during a six hour love affair among orchids, all of which really means little more than "everything is relevant". Does one truly desire a particular photograph or not?

Framing

A general rule of thumb criteria for photographic framing is the rule of thirds. Variations are numerous and include: 2/3rd subject/1/3rd background (or vice versa) either horizontally or vertically; the central 2/3rd as subject in circular form with outer 1/3rd as background; a subject to fill 1/3rd each side leaving the centre free, etc., etc. Try to ensure that framing includes the main theme in its entirety as a classic orchid loses class with only one and a half petals, or one and a quarter lateral sepals. However, if the exercise is to show in detail a specific segment of the bloom such as the labellum or column, then ruthlessly prune the surrounding extras by enlarging the item to the point where it is the main theme. Get closer to the subject, use a telephoto lens, use a teleconverter between the lens and the camera to double the image size, use a "bellows" unit with both the above if one has to - but always attempt to recreate as much of the exquisite detail in an orchid as it is possible to achieve. If it is not possible to see the detail through the viewfinder it is not possible to see the detail in the final print.

Background Comment

Checks for "undesirable" content in the form of foliage obscuring part of the bloom, wire mesh, timber rails, pale coloured piping, suspension wire, flowers of a contrasting colour, human hands, small sources of light, old stems or leaves, plastic bags or hoses, dual or multi coloured backdrops, etc., need to be performed so that unwanted competition is deleted. The subject must be the SUBJECT, not just a flower in front of the red wheelbarrow. Alas, at times the offending article beyond the

orchid may not be transferrable. One plain dark hand towel, or a metre square of black velvet, draped or held behind the subject is normally adequate in providing an unbroken background, and, as a bonus, helps to highlight the orchid.

Useful hints such as regularly cleaning lenses with a soft cloth, keeping spare film and batteries with the camera at all times, holding the camera steady when "shooting", storing the camera and film out of direct sunlight, etc., really do help to create better quality photos. Oh, yes. Those odd frames/prints with the soft, mottled or slightly blurred effect may quite well have been "classic shots" if the focusing had been attended to with a modicum of care.

"Yes, dear, that was when you bumped my elbow - don't you remember?"

Nikon & J.C.

Footnote:

All photographs accompanying the text were "shot" during an afternoon walk through the Botanical Gardens, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea - former "domain" of Mrs Andree Millar. Each frame was shot with the plant/flowers, etc., in the positions encountered, without the aid of special backdrops, effects, or equipment, other than a teleconverter and polarising filter. Selection of photographs depict a cross section of the Botanical Garden orchid varieties, with choice of photograph being photographic and reader interest rather than for quality of specific spikes or flowers.

Technical Data

Camera - NIKON FT3 35mm

Lens - NIKON F4-5 ED 50 - 300mm
Zoom

Teleconverter - NIKON TC 200

Filter - HOYA 95mm Polarising plus lens hood

Tripod - SLIK 35D

Film - KODAK Kodachrome 25ASA, 64ASA, Ektachrome 64ASA

Processing - KODAK Melbourne, Australia.

*P.O.Box 33-711
Takapuna
Auckland*



Caution is required due to depth of field limitations as is clearly evidenced (*Dendrobium lasianthera*).



Back lighting can be most effective -but beware of shadows! Use of a flashlight can overcome this problem (*Vanda* hybrid).



Unsuitable background material can almost destroy a photograph as depicted here (*Vanda* hybrid).



PHOTOGRAPHIC STRENGTHS & FAILINGS

Photography: J.C. Hoggard



Attempt to utilise contrast for maximum effect (*Dendrobium lineale*).





◀ Small pinpoints of light can be either most annoying or quite interesting, with telephoto lens usage.
(*Vanda T.M.A.*).

Extraneous light sources vie with the subject for attention.
(*Dendrobium antennatum*).
▶



◀ Simplicity for effectiveness
(*Spathoglottis portus funschii*).



PHOTOGRAPHIC STRENGTHS & FAILINGS

Photography: J. C. Hoggard

Gold Medal Award

"For Outstanding Service"

The highest award given by our Society was presented, with much acclamation to Mr Des Leahy. The element of surprise and secrecy was one of the highlights of the meeting. Des has served us well since he became a member in 1967. Shows have been his tour de force, and his expertise in this field has brought our Society many rewards.

A brief summary of some of his career in orchids lists: Show Secretary 1969-1974; Elected Vice-President 1973; President 1975-1977; Show Marshal 1978-1986; a Delegate to Conzed for six years and is a current Vice-President. He has attended World Orchid Conferences held in Sydney, Bangkok and Miami - at the last venue he organized the N.Z. Display and was the Delegate to the World Orchid Site Committee meeting. Displays at both N.Z. International Shows were noteworthy. Des is a Judge in both Conzed and N.Z.O.S. Judging Groups and an Associate with the C.S.A.

One of his more mundane tasks has been the erection and dismantling of our "Show Signs" around Auckland -thirty four times around a 57 km circuit towing a trailer load of signs and posts, etc.!

We all agree that Des is, indeed
A WORTHY WINNER

Life Membership was given to Mrs Thurl Carpenter, a member of 16 years and retiring after holding the office of Treasurer since 1976.

Thurl grows and shows a wide variety of mainly cool growing orchids and also excels in the Floral Art Displays. Ill health has forced the

curtailment of some of her involvement with these interests, but we still have her services as Treasurer for our Winter and Spring Shows.

To complete a notable "Double" husband Harry Carpenter was awarded the Ken Blackman Award.

Harry has been the "behind the scenes" workers, helping with the Society Accounting and Bankings, selling Books at meetings and generally, with his commercial experience, supervising our money matters.

RECENT N.Z.O.S. AWARDS

- 1/86 *Paphiopedilum* Vanda M. Pearman (*bellatulum* x *delenatii*) HCC. Grown by Mrs L. Mitchell. 19/3/1986.
- 2/86 *Phalaenopsis* (Radiance x Wendel George) x Playmate. HCC. Grown by Mr K. D. Nicholson. 19/3/86.
- 3/86 *Odontoglossum* Burkhard Holm 'Gera' HCC. Grown by Geyserland Orchids. 21/6/1986. Three branching spikes, only one carrying open flowers - yellow ground very heavily spotted and barred brown. Labellum similar colour. 22 open flowers with 17 buds.

STOP PRESS

First Laird Memorial Lecture
Mr DON HERMAN
of Trymwood Orchids,
California

— A.O.S. speaker and judge
SATURDAY, 27th SEPTEMBER
in Auckland.

Contact NZOS Secretary for details



Plate. *Pterostylis banksii*.

4.

FRANCIS BAUER

(1758-1840)

Ian M. St. George

This was the greatest botanical artist of all. Bauer was born in Austria; his father was painter to Prince Liechtenstein, but he died when Francis was an infant. The latter was talented even in childhood, and a painting was published when he was thirteen. After his brother Ferdinand, he came to England at age thirty, where he was within a short time attached to Sir Joseph Banks at Kew, and painted plants. Many were the new plants that George III's explorers were sending back from all over the world, and some of these paintings now form part of the Banksian collection in the British Museum: among them are 127 of British orchids.

His Kew drawings were published in 1796 in W. T. Aiton's *Delineations of Exotic Plants cultivated in the Royal Garden at Kew*. The Directors of the East India and Sierra Leone Companies had sent specimens, and it was said of Bauer's drawings, that "In the delineation of plants he united the accuracy of a profound Naturalist with the skill of the accomplished artist".

For sheer virtuosity, Bauer's paintings are unparalleled; he drew complex plants with apparent ease, and his attention to botanical detail is remarkable. He became an accomplished botanist, and was skilled with the microscope: when Banks was studying blight Bauer made detailed drawings of microscopic specimens; he published some work in the popular press on the smut of wheat, and eventually read a paper to the Linnaean Society on the Ergot of Rye.

Left:
Handcoloured engraving from a painting by Francis Bauer, 1832. From *Curtis's Botanical Magazine*: No 3172. Reproduced courtesy of the Library, Botany Division, DSIR, Lincoln.

Bauer illustrated Lindley's *Illustrations of orchidaceous plants*, published in 1830-38; his work on the structure of orchids is of great importance.

Banks remembered him in his will, with an annuity of thirty pounds, "on condition that he continues to reside on Kew Green, and employs himself in making drawings of plants that flower in the collection at Kew, in the same manner as he has hitherto done . . .". He lived and died at Kew, painting flowers to the end, at age 82, "admired, loved and respected" according to his epitaph at Kew church.

Curtis's Botanical Magazine contains two Bauer paintings of our orchids. *Microtis parviflora* as shown in 1835, No. 3377. The specimen was an Australian one, sent by the great Kew plant collector Allan Cunningham in 1824, "with others of the very curious Orchideae of New South Wales to His Majesty's Garden at Kew, where it flowered in October 1828, when the drawing, which Mr Bauer has obligingly communicated to us, was made. In September of the present year the same plant flowered in the greenhouse of the Glasgow Botanic Garden, among a box of rare Orchideae sent by Mr Richard Cunningham from the same country, the preceding year".

William Hooker's carefully polite prose barely hides the excitement they must have felt to see the new plant from across the world.

In 1826 Allan Cunningham found plants of *Pterostylis banksii* on the bank of a stream in the Bay of Islands; they were over 30cm high. He took some of the plants to Sydney, and later sent them to Kew by which time they had died back to tubers and were presumed dead. But the next season everybody

[continued on foot of page 140

Annual Report of Registrar General

The 1985/86 year has been a busy one for CONZED Judges with the Second International Seminar and Show in Wellington in October 1985 and a Judges Seminar in Taupo over the Queen's Birthday weekend 1986, as well as the usual monthly meetings of regional panels and judging at local meetings and shows.

AWARDS

In 1985 there were 17 proposals for Awards: 14 of these were recommended unchanged by the Judging Committee; two were recommended for alternative Awards; one was not processed as slides were not available due to difficulties encountered at the International Seminar. This problem may yet be solved. Of the 16 Awards ratified by the Council, three were for Award of Merit, six were for Highly Commended Certificate, four were for Award of Distinction and three for Certificate of Cultural Commendation.

ORCHID OF THE YEAR

The Judging Committee recommended *Paphiopedilum* St. Swithin 'Evans Bay' AM/OCNZ as Orchid of the Year 1985. This plant gained the highest points of those plants granted an Award of Merit. The plant was grown by the late Frank Askin of Wellington.

REVISION OF JUDGING HANDBOOK

The revision of the front section of the Handbook, particularly the dropping of the compulsory scales of marks for size and floriferousness, has been well received. Some confusion still exists regarding the maximum size of cymbidium flowers to qualify as a miniature. This matter was discussed at the Judging Committee Meeting and a recommendation appears under that heading. The revision of the back section of the Handbook (Regulations and By-laws) is overdue and it is hoped that the Council can persuade someone to undertake this difficult task in the near future.

was surprised to see a perfect specimen emerge, to flower, and to be painted by Francis Bauer. It appeared in *Curtis's Botanical Magazine* of 1832, No. 3172, and is shown here.

45 Cargill Street
Dunedin

Courtesy of the Library, Botany
Division, DSIR, Lincoln.

JUDGES SEMINAR, TAUPO 31st May-2nd June 1986

The success of the 1985 Seminar was such that many Judges requested a similar meeting this year. The programme included a number of genera that are returning to popularity, as well as a detailed study of special sections within the main genera grown. It was very clear from the summary sheets that our pattern of marking throughout the country is becoming much more consistent. The quality of lectures was very high indeed and each person entrusted with a topic had spent considerable time researching this subject and selecting slides and plants to illustrate important points. Once again the organisation and catering were superb. Special thanks to Ron Maunder for his tremendous contribution.

EXAMINATION FOR ASSOCIATE JUDGES

A new paper has been prepared and given to Regional Registrars who will be conducting the examination over the next few weeks.

VISITS BY REGISTRAR GENERAL

During the last 12 months visits were made to Judging Panels in Hamilton, North Shore, Tauranga, Wellington, Blenheim, Christchurch, Dunedin and Invercargill. In addition, I was the speaker at monthly meetings in Blenheim, Dunedin, Christchurch, Invercargill, Rotorua and North Shore.

MEETING OF JUDGING COMMITTEE

The annual meeting of the Judging Committee was held in association with the Taupo Seminar. Each Judging Panel was represented, in most cases by the Regional Registrar. After completion of general business, the following recommendations were agreed upon and are submitted to the Council for approval:

- (a) Handbook of Standards for Judging be amended as follows:
Page 12, line 3, the figure 65 be replaced by 60 (this brings into operation the figure of 60mm as the maximum size for miniature cymbidium flowers).
- (b) The present Registrar General and his Deputy be re-appointed for another year.
- (c) The Council approve the manufacture and issue of a National Judges Badge. Regional Registrars felt that Judges would be prepared to pay for their badges. Registrar General to submit designs and prices.

Ronald Roy
Registrar General

EARLY ORCHID GROWERS IN SOUTHLAND

John McDonald

I decided that I would like to grow ORCHIDS back in 1962 and after a long search finally purchased a plant of *Paph. insigne* but not knowing how to grow it I made a trip to the local Winter Gardens to see if they could tell me how to flower it. I was told that they did not know how to grow orchids but a fellow in town had some. The next thing was to find who he was and where he lived? They could not help me with either of these points.

It took me some time to find 'Noel Baker' and after the first visit we became very good friends. Noel had been growing orchids for about 14 years with a fair success. He had been up north to shows and had met many growers, and gave me the address of some to see if I could get plants from them. Such people as Mr H. Poole, Lower Hutt; Mr H. Rudolph, Eastbourne; Bradley's Orchids, Stoke; and Kath Black, Levin, were contacted and plants purchased from them in the early 1960's.

I can remember going round on a Sunday to find him 'feeding' the orchids with a bottle of beer, "you know they like the yeast" he would say. The thing that struck me was that the Phal. spikes always grew straight. Yes, he had a full range of genera and flowered most of them regularly.

Noel had been a keen photographer and had taken slides of everything that had flowered and many a night we looked at his slides as only one other person, in Invercargill, had ever shown any interest in his orchids. This other person turned out to be Stan Jones and he had a good collection of plants he had purchased in New Zealand and overseas.

After Noel passed away his wife gave me all his orchid books and boxes of slides, some of which I still use in talks. I also got what was left of that first orchid collection in Invercargill.

I owe all of my early knowledge of care and growing conditions to Noel Baker, Thames Street, Invercargill.

*396 McQuarrie Street
Invercargill*

Closing Dates

for

Vol. 12, No. 6: 1st October
Vol. 13, No. 1: 3rd November

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23rd & 24th August
Howick Community Centre.

GOLDEN COAST ORCHID SOCIETY

30th & 31st August
Winter Show
Southwards Museum Complex,
Paraparaumu.

AUCKLAND ORCHID CLUB

5th, 6th & 7th September
Henderson Civic Recreation Centre, Ratanui
Street, Henderson.

TAURANGA ORCHID SOCIETY

5th September, 10.00 a.m.-6.00 p.m.
6th September, 10.00 a.m.-4.00 p.m.
7th September, 10.00 a.m.-4.00 p.m.
Town Hall, Corner Wharf and Willow Streets.

MARLBOROUGH ORCHID SOCIETY

4th, 5th & 6th September.
St. Christophers Hall, Redwood Town.

OTAGO ORCHID CLUB

6th & 7th September.
Queens High School Assembly Hall.

NORTH SHORE ORCHID SOCIETY

12th September, 1.00 p.m.-4.30 p.m.
13th September, 10.00 a.m.-4.30 p.m.
14th September, 10.00 a.m.-4.30 p.m.
A.T.I. North Shore Hall, Akoranga Drive,
Northcote.

SOUTH AUCKLAND ORCHID SOCIETY

13th September, 1.00 p.m.-5.00 p.m.
14th September, 10.00 a.m.-4.00 p.m.
Community Hall, Great South Road,
Papakura.

ROTORUA ORCHID SOCIETY

13th September, 10.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m.
14th September, 10.00 a.m.-4.00 p.m.
Soundshell, Rotorua.

POVERTY BAY EAST COAST ORCHID SOCIETY

13th September, 9.00 a.m.-6.00 p.m.
14th September, 10.00 a.m.-4.00 p.m.
Archery Club Hall, Disraeli Street, Gisborne.

HAWKES BAY ORCHID SOCIETY

12th, 13th & 14th September.
Sports Stadium, Station Street, Hastings.

CAPITAL CITY ORCHID SOCIETY

13th & 14th September.
Onslow College Hall, Wellington.

LEVIN AND DISTRICTS ORCHID SOCIETY

17th, 18th & 19th September.

TOKOROA & DISTRICTS ORCHID SOCIETY

18th & 19th September
- with Daffodil Show.

SOUTH TARANAKI ORCHID SOCIETY

20th & 21st September.
Hawera Community Centre.

CANTERBURY ORCHID BEGONIA AND FERN SOCIETY

20th September, 11.00 a.m.-8.00 p.m.
21st September, 9.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m.
Horticultural Hall, Cambridge Terrace,
Christchurch.

ORCHIDS AUSTRALIA '86

17th to 24th September.
Adelaide, South Australia.

NEW ZEALAND ORCHID SOCIETY

26th September, 10.00 a.m.-9.00 p.m.
27th September, 10.00 a.m.-6.00 p.m.
28th September, 10.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m.
Mt. Albert War Memorial Hall, Auckland.

THAMES VALLEY ORCHID SOCIETY

26th September, 9.00 a.m.-8.00 p.m.
27th September, 9.00 a.m.-4.00 p.m.
War Memorial Hall, Thames.

TAUPO ORCHID SOCIETY

26th, 27th & 28th September.
Memorial Hall, Tongariro Street, Taupo.

MANAWATU ORCHID SOCIETY

26th September, 11.00 a.m.-8.00 p.m.
27th September, 10.00 a.m.-4.00 p.m.
28th September, 10.00 a.m.-4.00 p.m.
Civic Centre, Palmerston North.

GOLDEN COAST ORCHID SOCIETY

2nd October, 9.00 a.m.-8.30 p.m.
3rd October, 9.00 a.m.-5.30 p.m.
4th October, 9.00 a.m.-4.30 p.m.
Coastlands Shopping Mall, Paraparaumu.

NELSON ORCHID SOCIETY

4th October, 10.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m.
5th October, 10.00 a.m.-4.00 p.m.
Stoke Memorial Hall, Main Road, Stoke.

WAIKATO ORCHID SOCIETY

3rd October, 1.00 p.m.-6.00 p.m.
4th October, 10.00 a.m.-9.00 p.m.
5th October, 10.00 a.m.-4.00 p.m.
Te Rapa Racecourse, Hamilton.

WANGANUI ORCHID SOCIETY

11th October, 11.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m.
12th October, 10.00 a.m.-4.00 p.m.
War Memorial Hall, Wanganui.

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17th & 18th October.
St. John's Hall, Dannevirke.

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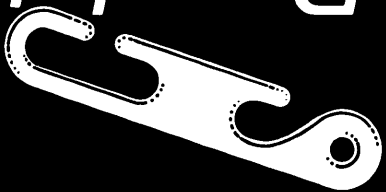
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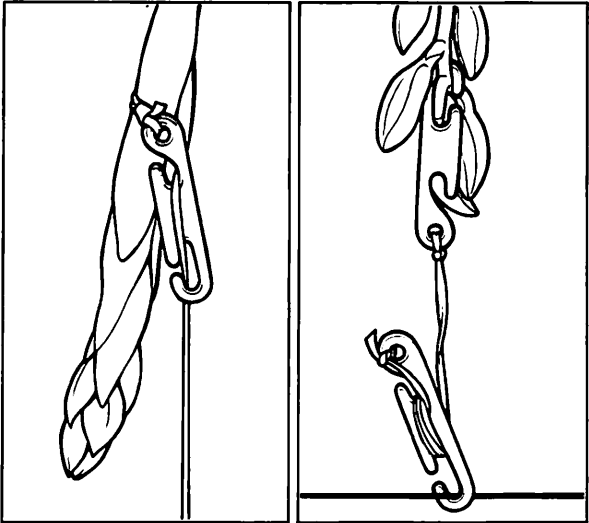
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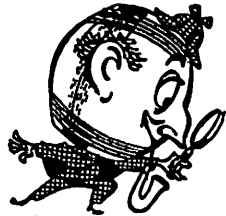
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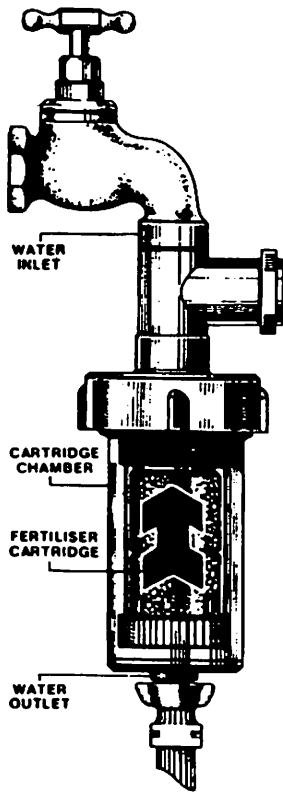
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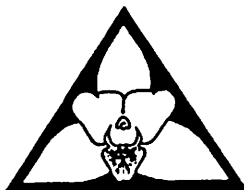
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PORTRAITS OF NEW ZEALAND ORCHID SPECIES



Corybas aconitiflorus

Photography: Bob Goodger

Corybas unguiculatus



These two species of *Corybas* also grow in Australia. They both have minute petals and lateral sepals.

Corybas aconitiflorus are often hard to find, as they are tiny, and grow in patches in leaf mould (often partially buried), especially under beech forest.

Corybas unguiculatus grows in boggy conditions in a few North Island localities, flowering from July to October.