

Orchids

IN NEW ZEALAND



Volume 12 - No. 6
November/December 1986

Norm Porter Orchids

* CYMBIDIUMS

Now in Flower, available from Nursery or sent anywhere in New Zealand by Newmans Bus - Depot to Door Service ... \$20-\$25 each

Seedling Flasks - Wide selection including Mini and Standards to suit the hobbyist and commercial grower. Parents used include:

Sue, various 4N clones
Pink Peach, 4N
Vanguard 'Mas Beauty'
Winter Fair 'Nancy'
Mighty Mouse 'Minnie'
Tamatea 'Tahi'

Red Beauty 'Carmen'
Rincon 'Clarisse' 4N
James Wattie 4N
Babylon 'Castle Hill'
Coraki 'Margaret'
Fred Stewart, etc.

... \$45 each

Back Bulb Propagations. A very comprehensive selection

... \$3-\$10 each

Plants - Seedlings and Mericlones in a wide range of colour and flowering times

... \$3-\$15 each

CYMBIDIUM AND PAPHIOPEDILUM

Community Pots - 10 seedlings or 5 mericlones for \$15.

* PAPHIOPEDILUM FLASKS

Both Primary and Modern Hybrids, Flasks contain 30 plants

... \$65 each

* **IN SEASON: CATTLEYA, PHALAENOPSIS AND PAPHIOPEDILUM PLANTS IN FLOWER**

... \$15-\$25 each

ALSO - Zygopetalum and Dendrobium plants.

List Now Available

Send to:

NORM PORTER

"CYMBIDIUM ORCHID SPECIALIST"

Nursery - 23 Parata Street, Waikanae
(Parata Street is opposite Woolworths)

Phone (058) 36-977

Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 9.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m.

During the flowering season, May-November, the Nursery is Open
Sundays and Public Holidays

O.C.N.Z. OFFICERS:

President:
MR D. K. BELL
(Waikato O.S.)

Secretary:
MRS P. MARTIN
3 Morriss Place,
Cambridge

Treasurer:
MR M. CLARK
C/o 3 Morriss Place,
Cambridge

EDITORS:

N. C. & E.M. MILLER
Te Akau Road, R.D.4.,
Rotorua

All editorial and advertising material
to be sent to the Editors.
Advertising rates available from the
Editors.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Vol. 12, 1986 (6 issues)
(including postage): \$10.00
Vol. 13, 1987 (6 issues)
(including postage and
GST): \$15.00

Subscriptions and all enquiries
relating to subscriptions to:

Distribution Secretary:

MRS B. GODWIN
P.O.Box 36-297
Northcote
Auckland 9

Back Issues Secretary:

MRS G. ANDERSON
421 Pukehangi Road
Rotorua

Opinions expressed by authors are
not necessarily endorsed by the
O.C.N.Z.

The O.C.N.Z. does not assume
responsibility for any transactions
between readers and advertisers.

Printed by W. J. Deed Printing Ltd
9 Martyn Street, Waiuku
Phone (085) 59-630

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. 6 NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1986

CONTENTS

Editorial	186
Adelaide—Tony Ballard	186
First Geoff Laird Memorial Lecture — Opening Address: A Reminiscence—Des Leahy	187
OCNZ 2nd National Judges Seminar at Taupo	189
Aporostylis	190
Vale—Alice (Elsie) Blackmore	191
Pests of Orchids—2. Slugs and Snails—Gary Barker	192
Cymbidium Culture Notes—G. Maney	194
Hunting Wild Orchids in Fiji, Part 2—Os Blumhardt	195
Some Observations on Phalaenopsis—J. Campbell	199
Flowering <i>Brassia verrucosa</i> —Glenn Anderson	200
Flowering <i>Brassia verrucosa</i> —Bob McCulloch	201
Pukekura Corner—I'm one of the Mugs—will you join me for 1990?	204
Varying Habits of N.Z. Orchids, Part 2—Jean M. Jenks	206
William Jackson Hooker (1785-1865)—Ian St. George	209
John Easton Award 1986	210

ILLUSTRATIONS

Orchid snail; brown field slug; slug-damaged flower	193
<i>Dendrobium mohlianum</i>	196
<i>Coelogyne</i> sp.	196
<i>Dendrobium sertatum</i>	196
<i>Dracula chimaera</i>	199
<i>Brassia verrucosa</i>	200
<i>Pterostylis nutans</i>	208

FRONT COVER

Thelymitra pulchella, a charming, summer-flowering ground
orchid, occurring on poor land and boggy ground in parts of New
Zealand.

Photography: Bob Goodger

BACK COVER

Thelymitra decora
T. ixioides

Photography: Bob Goodger

EDITORIAL

With the approach of the festive season, this seems an appropriate time to write a note on behalf of our advertisers. Without them this journal could not exist—certainly not in its present form. Some of them have supported "Orchids in New Zealand" loyally since its inception, while others are more recent additions to the fold.

Many older orchid enthusiasts (and some not so old) can remember the days when orchid plants were very difficult to obtain, in this country—especially if they weren't cymbidiums! Cattleyas—yes sometimes; Odontoglossums—import them from England (if you could get the

overseas funds!); Lycastes—try Albert—he might have one to spare!

Today how different is the situation. If anything, there is a glut of orchid plants, and some nurseries are finding business slow.

Why not do 'the trade', and yourself a favour this Christmas. Buy an orchid plant, or better still, several. Perhaps you could leave a copy of this issue, open at a strategic page, under the nose of your spouse, relatives, friends. And don't forget to add, to the bottom of your order for plants, 'I saw your advertisement in "Orchids in New Zealand" '!

ADELAIDE

A brief look at the 10th Australian International Conference and Show.

New Zealand was there!

The local newspaper proclaimed "Blooms worth \$1m on display in South Australia."

"We believe it is the biggest display of orchids ever, in the Southern Hemisphere—130 exhibits from all around Australia, Holland, the U.S.A., Japan, Malaysia and Thailand."

And while New Zealand didn't get a mention, we certainly performed well in carrying the honours for the Best Overseas Displays—First, Second and Third for Geyslerland Orchids, North Shore and New Zealand Orchid Societies, in that order! Our two other displays were mounted by the Golden Coast Orchid Society, and the Cymbidium Society of America, Australasian Branch.

Our five displays earned a total of 22 prize cards and included the Grand

Champion Odont. Alliance *Onc.* Varimyre 'Adelaide', and the Champion Paph, *P.* Picture Rock 'Sandstone', both displayed by Geyslerland Orchids. In the N.Z.O.S. display, *Lyc.* Koolena 'Ballerina' from Paul Leahy was awarded the medal in the Champion Miscellaneous class.

Two first place winners, *Cym.* Gladys Whitesell 'Profusion' in the Intermediate class and Gladys Whitesell 'Peaches and Cream', a miniature cut spike, were shown by

Geyserland Orchids. Those creamy white spikes, together with Norm Porter's *Cym*. Jack Hudlow, dark emerald green with an outstanding wine red lip, created much interest. All three were much admired and sought after by local orchidists. The gold Bonnie's Pride 'Colleen' entered by Margaret Le Sueur also won its class.

Transporting backgrounds and arranging spikes in vases (in a mountain of bark) is never an easy task. Congratulations and thanks are extended to all who assisted.

In a Show of this size there was much to admire, and while the overall impression becomes a blur of colour, a few memorable exhibits are fixed in my mind.

The dark cave under the stairs with a display of coloured Phals. illuminated by bright spot lights; the magnificent display of Paphs. reaching up the hillside at the main entrance; and Andy Easton's artistry with an old trunk and a couple of battered suitcases!

Of special interest were the polystyrene orchid flowers, and rampant kiwis and kangaroos, sculpted by Des Leahy, which gave a firm pointer to the 1990 World Orchid Conference.

And in lighter vein, the threat by the Agricultural Officers to remove all tubes of water before releasing our flowers—we shipped 55 boxes—was put down to possible Pre-America's Cup Nerves!

21 Boyd Avenue
Mangere Bridge
Auckland

FIRST GEOFF LAIRD MEMORIAL LECTURE 27th September 1986

Opening Address: A Reminiscence

Des Leahy, Past President, N.Z.O.S.

In commemoration of our late friend there are a few of us in this gathering that had the privilege of knowing such a man as Geoff Laird and as one of them I have been invited to say "a few words". But it is truly difficult to put into a few words the many attributes of a man of this calibre.

As many will know he was one of the Founders of the New Zealand Orchid Society—one of the originals—and for many years the most prominent Orchidist in the country. I can think of few others to whom the term "Orchidist" could so aptly apply. He started growing orchids at the age of sixteen and continued with intense interest for another sixty years—almost up to the last few months of his lifetime. He was always fond of growing things

Many were the plants given to visitors. If you were fortunate enough to be invited to see his collection you would invariably come away with at least one plant as a gift. His generosity equalled his knowledge and that was prodigious. He seldom, if ever, sold his plants or his blooms but hundreds and hundreds—probably thousands, were gifted away. There are many, many brides of yesteryear who carried his flowers in their bouquets.

but upon making an enquiry about orchids from a friend he was told that "they are very hard to grow"—that statement was enough for Geoff!

Further along the line he became acquainted with a few other enthusiasts and became instrumental in forming a group with a common interest. In 1948 he became the first President of this Society and an untiring writer of Newsletters and Cultural Notes, always ready to share his knowledge—a rare quality among early New Zealand growers. He never kept his know-how or methods a secret. He was always the innovator, the trier of new methods and different ways to improve his culture to the extent that he was almost fanatical in this aspect, trying new mixes, new pots, new watering, new nutrients—always the seeker of perfection.

He was a firm believer that good culture and growing conditions were, and always will be, absolutely the most important factor, the key, in the production of superb blooms. On this point, I must say that I entirely agree with his opinions.

But his name has never appeared in the lists of N.Z.O.S. Awards. Although he was a perfectionist he was never competitive. He did not wish to have his plants compared publicly in a contest. However, he was always willing to put on a display of his plants for anyone interested and did this many times, and in many places.

He derived tremendous pleasure and satisfaction out of growing his plants outstandingly well.

Some will recall the huge tubs of Sobralias and Epidendrums, that long, open greenhouse of huge-bulbed Odontoglossums, the bench-loads of Paphiopedilms—I could go on and on—ad infinitum, talking about his displays.

Although Geoff was a prominent businessman in the mid-years of his life, I always had the feeling that he was basically a very private person—always friendly and courteous, communicative in the extreme, but also as I said—"A Private Person".

Not many would know, or even suspect, the depth of his many talents. The possessor of a fine singing voice, he performed frequently on the stage both as a vocalist and as an actor. He was the "Uncle Geoff" of children's radio sessions and as an entertainer he brought much pleasure to his Comrades-in-Arms in North Africa in the Second World War. Not many know that he served in the Medical Corps. overseas for five years. But above all he was a modest man. I was told by a mutual friend that he shared his deep interest in singing, music and stage acting with Mrs Laird and in fact, that was the way that they first became acquainted. I know that Mrs Laird and the family will have many cherished memories of Geoff—the true family man. But I would venture to say that outside his family, there were not many that really knew him but we will remember him—to use the term again—as a true orchidist and generous mentor to all who were fortunate enough to meet him.

On behalf of the New Zealand Orchid Society and indeed of all orchid growers throughout New Zealand, we thank you Mrs Laird, most sincerely, for the bequest that you were instrumental—entirely as your own wish—in settling on our Society.

It will have many and far reaching beneficial effects for us all—a fitting tribute to the memory of our old friend.



Orchid Council of New Zealand 2nd N.Z. National Judges Seminar at Taupo

One who attended both Taupo Seminars

Queen's Birthday weekend saw Orchid Judges and associates from Northland to Southland assemble at the Taupo College.

It was good to see many faces from last year, along with several newcomers, to make a total attendance of 63, all with the same objective—to broaden our knowledge and improve judging techniques, to create a uniformity of judging throughout the country.

We were greeted on arrival with a friendly smile from the organisers, and a much needed cuppa. Everyone brought what flowering plants they could, for which we were most grateful. A mini show could almost have been staged.

Saturday morning was the start of a very well organised programme, which ran to schedule right through to the end of the seminar, at mid-day on Monday. Congratulations to the organisers, Ron Maunder and Ron Roy. There was of course the odd hiccup, and many laughs along the way.

Subjects covered were as follows:

1. Paphiopedilum species and primary hybrids. Ron Roy, Christchurch.
2. How to award judge modern hybrid Paphiopedilums. Miriam Corban, Auckland.
3. Miniature and Intermediate Cymbidiums—their background and how to judge them. Cliff Coles, New Plymouth.
4. Standard Cymbidiums—Is bigger better? Janet Mendoza, Lower Hutt.
5. Some thoughts on standard Cattleya judging. Syd Wray, Whangarei.
6. Miniature Cattleya's—Judging misfits! Rae James, Hamilton.

7. Orchid nomenclature—difficult to say, important to know. Jim James, Hamilton.
8. Phalaenopsis—appreciating the species. Ron Roy, Christchurch.
9. Odontoglossums and their offspring—what to look for. Ron Maunder, Tauranga.
10. Show Judging in teams. Russ Wilkins, Wellington.
11. Masdevallias—getting to know them and award them. Russell Hutton, Tuakau.
12. Dendrobiums—What makes a good soft-cane Dendrobium. Jim James, Hamilton.
13. Miscellaneous Genera—Giving C.C.'s is not enough. Ross Tucker, Auckland.

Practical judging followed each lecture, after which there was a discussion. We owe thanks to all the speakers who must have spent many hours of preparation on their subjects. Fortunately most of these people were attending the seminar, but special thanks must go to those who made a special trip to Taupo to speak to us. Mirian Corban brought a selection of Paphiopedilums with her and gave an excellent talk, then headed back to Auckland. Russell Hutton brought a slide programme on Masdevallias, which he had prepared using three projectors. This was quite an eye opener to this increasingly

popular genus. I think he snatched forty winks before returning to Tuakau.

One evening a slide programme of Australian awards was presented, during which an apology for the photography followed most slides. This was a lesson on the importance of photographing orchid flowers for awards.

Monday morning we visited Geotherm Exports—Commercial Phalaenopsis flower exporters, where Alistair McLauchlan made us very welcome, and supplied us with untold numbers of Phals. to judge. Even if you were not a grower, or lover of Phalaenopsis, you couldn't help but be impressed. We thank Alistair for making this visit possible.

During the seminar several awards were granted and are awaiting notification. Taupo Society members once again helped out with the many chores involved in running such a seminar. Excellent meals were supplied on the premises, as were morning and afternoon teas.

I'm sure all who attended will agree that such seminars are a **must**, particularly with the increase in popularity of the miscellaneous genera, and the extensive hybridising being carried out world-wide using bi and multi generics. We must also bear in mind the 13th World Conference in 1990 which is fast approaching.

P.S. I would love to have been an owl on the fence, the night one of our Regional Registrars was locked out of his motel room!

SANDERS LISTS

The Orchid Council of New Zealand has decided to canvas interested orchid enthusiasts for interest in buying Sanders Lists in a bulk order.

Details next issue.

APOROSTYLIS

Acquaintances of well known commercial orchid grower Kathleen Black will be saddened to hear of the passing of her only daughter, who had spent many years in Europe. Kath has also been hospitalized recently after falling down a concrete trench in the constructions at her nursery. She is on deck again now. Extra staff have been noticed in the nursery recently and we wonder if she is expanding or starting to take life easier!

Shows are all over and how did they go this year? From all accounts attendances were down and flowers late. Plants such as *Sarcochilus hartmanni* and *Coelogyne cristata* didn't make many shows and a lot of quality cymbidiums and devonianum miniatures weren't out in time due to the cold winter. Commercial sellers report lower sales at shows and malls, and prices have tumbled. Show attendances were down by up to 50% and sales table receipts fell generally. The only northern club "cracking hardy" was Waikato who reckon they held their own! However, increased admission no doubt helped them. Some societies reduced their shows to two-day affairs because of higher venue charges. They will be wondering which way to go for their next year's shows. Tauranga Orchid Societies latest newsletter reports that the average price of plants sold on their sales table has fallen from \$12.80 in 1983 to \$7.43 this year. No doubt partly because local exporters flood the area with cull plants at giveaway prices as low as \$8.00 for a flowering plant, but also because tastes in the north (and possibly elsewhere) have shifted to cheaper other-genera plants. However, cymbidiums are still popular in the deep south and are reported to still sell in flower from \$30-\$60 each!

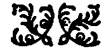
Species enthusiasts and other genera buffs never thought they would see the day when something

other than a cymbidium would win Grand Champion at the "big" shows. This year Alf Day did it with a lovely *Cypripedium* species with three flowers, at the N.Z.O.S. Show.

Congratulations Alf. You have given hope to growers of "other genera".

The Waikato O.S. Spring Show in Hamilton was another grand affair with some excellent plants being tabled—no doubt drawn from elsewhere too, to compete for the high prize monies from sponsors. Commercial booths were reintroduced and visiting U.S. Judge Ned Nash, addressed the Friday night Dinner and Prizegiving Ceremony. Grand Champion was a huge white phalaenopsis and other top plants were an orange mini-cat, a very dark odont. and the usual cymbidiums. These were tastefully displayed with their cups and ribbons on a specially constructed island display, which made then easy to find. An HCC/OCNZ award was given to a beautiful green miniature cymbidium Cool Change (Minette x King Arthur) and other awards from other judging systems were in evidence.

Some excitement was caused in the dying minutes of the show downstairs in the sales area where Allan Napper auctioned off beautiful flowering plants of phalaenopsis and paphiopedilums for \$9.00 to \$16.00! While the other stallholders called it a day and packed up, a large crowd gathered looking for bargains. The well known owner joined in the fun with groans and grimaces as the plants were knocked down at giveaway prices. He hastened to reassure everyone that room in his van was the problem—not liquidity or geothermal steam! Overseas visitors and those recently returned from Australia rated the show as "better than Adelaide or Sydney", so watch out Syd Monkhouse, Darryl Bell and his band are going to surpass you!



VALE

Alice (Elsie) Blackmore

I regard it as an honour to be asked to write a tribute to the late Alice (Elsie) Blackmore. Certainly in the Northern part of New Zealand both Elsie and the late Albert Blackmore were people of special standing in the orchid world, but their life-long interest in orchids has ensured their place in the history of this particular activity throughout the country.

Elsie was for some years the Editor of the New Zealand Orchid Society's Newsletter. When she and Albert felt the time had come to do so, they were instrumental in forming the North Shore Orchid Society, and it is as a member of this group that I write these words.

Elsie was our first President, Albert our first Patron. When Albert died, Elsie became our second Patron, and until her death a few months ago she attended every meeting that her health permitted. With failing eyesight, and in spite of increasing frailty, she came to our meetings when I am sure she would have often preferred to stay quietly at home. But that was Elsie—a very strong lady.

Her chief love was of miniature cymbidiums and there is one named for her. She was also involved in the making of the hybrid Masrudel which, in part, commemorates her name. Fittingly, this crossing produced vigorous and productive plants, which it is hoped will be retained in the collections of our members.

Elsie lived a very full 85 years, and died peacefully.

Her personality was a formidable one, and her influence will long be felt by those who had the privilege of knowing her well.

*Beverley O'Dowda
North Shore Orchid Society*



PESTS OF ORCHIDS

2. *Slugs and Snails*

Gary Barker

There are about 100,000 species of molluscs worldwide. The majority of these are marine animals, living from the ocean depths to the shores. In the ocean, pulling the head and body into the shell was chiefly a means of defense against being eaten. On rocky shores where there is the ebb and flow of tides, the retreat into a shell provided as much protection against drying out as against being eaten. The slugs and snails found in our gardens and greenhouses are representatives of molluscs that have adapted to life on land. Having a shell on their back, a mobile garage into which the body can be withdrawn, provided the means for a snail to venture forth onto land. Some snails can survive months, if not years, of drought (becoming dormant during dry weather), by aestivating inside their shells. Confining their bouts of activity to the moist, cool hours of darkness is also an adaptation to life on the land for the snail.

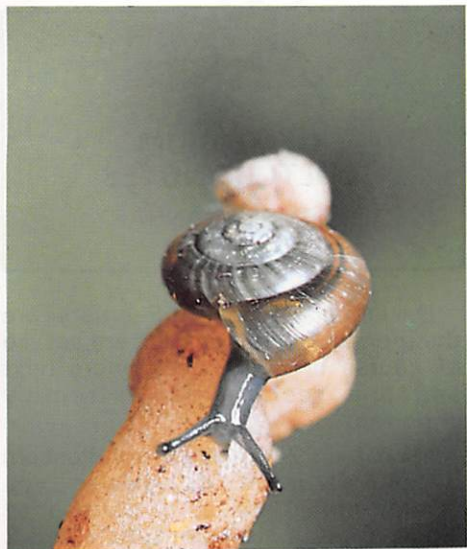
In many forest regions, where moisture is abundant, the snail shell has lost a great deal of its value in water retention. In the course of evolution, many of these forest molluscs have lost their shells, or nearly so. They have evolved into slugs. In the course of becoming 'sluggish' various changes in body organs have made slugs well adapted to life without a protective shell, and are able to cope with alternating bouts of dehydration and hydration.

The slugs and snails of concern to us as orchid growers in New Zealand are among the most hardy and adaptable of the terrestrial species. They are species which evolved in the northern hemisphere and, because of their ability to survive in habitats modified by man, have become established in many parts of the world outside their native range. The snails most troublesome are the brown garden snail (*Helix aspersa*), a native of meadows, heaths and dunes of Europe and the British Isles, and the orchid snail (*Zonitoides arboreus*) which originates from the forests of North America.

Of the 12 exotic slugs established in New Zealand, only three species are common in greenhouses: the brown field slug (*Deroceras panormitanum*), from the Mediterranean; the grey field slug (*Deroceras reticulatum*) from Europe; and Bourguignat's slug (*Lehmannia nyctelia*) of southern Europe and northern Africa.

Feeding by slugs and snails depends on protruding a tongue-like organ, the radula, coated with a few to many thousands of teeth on its surface. When protruded, the teeth on the radula can scrape, pierce, cut or tear the object with which they come in contact and produce small bits for swallowing. On orchids the buds and flowers are favoured foods of the brown garden snail and slugs, as their soft tissues are easily handled by the radula. On occasion, flower stems, leaves, new shoots and the tips of exposed roots will be eaten. The presence of slime trails and faecal strings will confirm that slugs or snails are the culprits.

The orchid snail is at home in the greenhouse but not common outside greenhouses in New Zealand. The use of bark and other loosely packed potting media undoubtedly contributes to the widespread nature of infestations. Many sources of bark are apparently infested by the snails and few greenhouses have escaped invasion. The moist, dark spaces between the pieces of bark in the pot offer ideal breeding places for these snails. Individual pots may house several dozen snails. Infestations often go unnoticed until the roots are inspected in the course of repotting. The snails feed on the orchid roots, destroying the terminal growths and sections of the velamen. The vigour



The orchid snail, *Zonitoides arboreus*
These can reach a shell size of 5mm but the common size range is 2-3mm.

of young plants is reduced by heavy infestations and damaged roots are undoubtedly prone to infection by bacteria and fungi.



A *Cymbidium* flower damaged by slugs



The brown field slug, *Deroceras panormitanum*

Overseas *Z. arboreus* has been referred to under a variety of common names, including bark snail, bush snail, orchid snail.

In New Zealand *Z. arboreus*, *Oxychilus alliarius* (garlic snail), *O. cellarius* (cellar snail) and juvenile *O. draparnaudi* (draparnaudi's snail) are often confused and wrongly identified because their shells are basically similar in shape, colour and size. All have been referred to as bush snails, although *O. alliarius* and *O. cellarius* are most common under trees, wood, etc., outdoors. The *Oxychilus* species do occur in nurseries and are occasionally found in orchid greenhouses.

Sphagnum moss is a suitable habitat for both *Z. arboreus* and *O. alliarius/cellarius*. For moss collected from native habitat areas in New Zealand it is likely to contain *O. cellarius* occasionally, and even one or two of the several hundred native snail species.

The orchid snail generally shuns the commonly used snail baits. Control can be achieved by repeated drenching of the pots with Mesurol (75% active ingredient Methiocarb, wettable powder) at the rate of 6.6 gm per litre of water. The alternative is to repot the plants into clean mix, taking care to remove snails which may remain on the roots.

(The smallest pack of wettable powder Mesurol is 1.5 kg at \$124.00 retail).

Infestations of the brown garden snail usually result from colonies outside. Snails in search of moisture or warmth find their way into the greenhouse. Their size means their presence is generally noticed before a breeding colony is established in the greenhouse. Slugs will also invade the greenhouse from grassed or weedy surrounds, and can establish breeding colonies provided there is adequate moisture and cover. If the orchid house and surrounds have been kept free of debris and weeds the incidence of these menaces will be kept at a minimum. Scattering molluscicide baits about the floor of the greenhouse at regular intervals will further assist in preventing the brown garden snail and the slugs becoming established. Two types of baits are available in New Zealand; one containing metaldehyde as the toxicant (e.g. Coopers Slugex Pellets; Raid Slug 'n' Snail; Yates Blitzem Pellets; Slug Slam), the other containing methiocarb (e.g. Mesurol Snail and Slug Pellets). The latter bait type is generally most effective under greenhouse conditions, and should be applied at a rate of 1g per square metre.

*G. M. Barker
Ruakura Soil Plant Research Station*

Note:

Sevin is a trade name for carbaryl. Like a number of carbamate insecticides, carbaryl is mildly toxic to slugs and snails but should not be recommended as a means of control. Jeyes Fluid may kill snails but is not likely to be as effective as Mesurol.

Closing Dates

for

Vol. 13, No. 2: 31st January



CYMBIDIUM CULTURE NOTES DECEMBER/JANUARY

Gordon Maney

December, January, February are the months when the buds are set, so of course if you want flowers next season, feeding is extremely important.

Microfeed 214 and Peters Blossom Booster are ideal. If, however, you cannot obtain these, 2 parts dried blood, 6 parts superphosphate and 2 parts potash, thoroughly mixed and placed round your plants once a month, at the rate of 10ml or a dessertspoon to a 25cm (10") pot, plus once a week Phostrogen, 5ml to 9 litres (2 gallons). Be sure to thoroughly water before feeding.

Because it is getting much hotter now, the plants are drying out more quickly, so you must water more frequently. This of course helps to keep red spider at bay and with increased feeding you need to thoroughly leach the plants five days after feeding, to stop the build up of salts.

Watch for scale insects. Personally if I find a plant infested I spray with All Seasons Oil with the addition of wettable powder Malathion, at the rate of 10ml to 5 litres of water.

I certainly do not spray all my plants—this is definitely a mistake. Keep plants out of the sun after spraying or they'll burn.

For aphids and caterpillars, wettable powder Orthene is excellent.



*7 Harrow Place
Palmerston North*

Hunting Wild Orchids in Fiji

Part 2

Os Blumhardt



Os and his companions Al and Eric took a brief look along the coast road between Nadi and Suva, then spent two days on the smaller island of Taveuni, before returning to Viti Levu. During their flight, they saw a large lake and dam in the mountains behind Nadi.

The next day, Monday, we decided to try orchid hunting in the area of the water-supply dam, as we had seen areas of bush near the lake. We hired a rental car and had a look first at the project Don Burness was working on. It is a garden featuring orchids that will eventually be opened for tour parties. They have built a fairly long covered walkway, with timber to walk on, and orchids hung both sides under shade-cloth. The garden is called "Sleeping Giant", as the ridge of the hills behind it looks like the silhouette of a very large man lying on his back.

We set off towards the dam, but had difficulty finding the way, so when Eric spotted the water treatment station, we turned in to get instructions. The men working there were about to have their lunch, so we took ours in and had it with them. They offered us a cup of what they called "No. 9 tea" which was boiling water on fresh lemon leaves, and a good refreshing drink it was. After lunch one of the men showed us all round the treatment station, which was of particular interest to Eric, who had spent all his working life building water supply dams, pipe-lines and access roads, etc., in the Hunua ranges, near Auckland.

When we got to the Vaturu Dam, we found that the trees had been so battered and stripped by the hurricanes that orchid hunting was a complete waste of time. The road in was narrow and winding, and went up and down hills at very steep grades,

so we decided to return by an alternative route, a road shown on our map as connecting with the Nausori Heights road, east of Nadi. A little way along we came to a place where some large land-slides had taken away the road, but there seemed to be a detour of sorts around the top. We proceeded very slowly, a little at a time until we came to a place where huge boulders had been blasted, leaving broken rocks all over the track, making it quite impassable. However, we were nearly through and didn't fancy turning back, so we shifted rocks, filled holes and cleared a passage for the car, and eventually got the car through. When we got to the junction with the Nausori Heights road, we found a sign which said "Road Closed" for the section we had come through!

On Tuesday morning Don Burness picked us up from the hotel, then stopped again at his home for provisions and Epeli, their gardener and odd job man who was coming with us. He also picked up a little French lady, Rene, elderly but spry, and very talkative, who wanted to be in on the adventure.

Don headed north and followed the main coast road as far as Tavua, and then headed inland, getting to Nadarivatu, about 2,500 feet altitude, in time for lunch.

Across the valley was a bush-covered peak called Lomailangi (heaven) rising perhaps another thousand feet, and we headed up that

in the afternoon, leaving Rene to do some painting. The lower slopes were all planted in pine forest, then a belt of Eucalyptus and then we got into native vegetation and immediately started finding orchids, in considerable variety, though they were hard to see in the trees.

We soon had Eric working full-time photographing those that were in flower, which included *Dendrobium mohlianum*, *D. prasinum*, *D. gordonii* and one that Don had no name for, but which I am certain is *D. gracilicaule*, an Australian species with small yellow flowers. Also two *Bulbophyllums*, one brown, the other maroon, but very small flowers.

We found a plant of the *Coelogyne* that we'd found on Taveuni, this time in flower, with two blooms about 6cm or 7 cm diameter, green with brown on the lip.



Dendrobium mohlianum

Photography: Eric Scanlan

Rene had dinner cooking when we got back to the house and afterwards we sat round a large open fire (not really necessary but part of the colonial tradition).



Coelogyne sp.

Photography: Eric Scanlan

On Wednesday morning we piled into the van and headed away towards the Monasavu Hydro Dam, east or south-east of where we were. We stopped in the pine forest where there were a few Vunga (*Metrosideros*) trees and *Podocarpus neriifolia* along a stream and Don spotted a clump of *Dendrobium spathulatum* on a branch over the stream. This is a *Latouria* type that Don says is fairly rare. It is a sturdy plant with stems up to a metre long, but had no blooms. Eric and Al got out the climbing gear, and succeeded in getting it. In the meantime I climbed a leaning Vunga, further back through a tangle of high lantana and got a couple of good large plants of *D. sertatum* and a small *D. prasinum*.

It was raining at the dam so we could not see much there, so we



Dendrobium sertatum

Photography: Eric Scanlan

returned to two promising fallen trees we had seen on the way in. Both had a good lot of orchids on them. One had mostly *D. mohlianum*, but no flowers. The other had quite a lot of *D. sertatum*, but these were self-coloured, in very pale to quite deep pink. There were also more *D. prasinum*, *coelogyne*, *eria*, and *bulbophyllums* and a creeping orchid that looked like a *bulbophyllum*, but had its small red blooms rising singly from the tops of the pseudobulbs. There were also lots of a small plant like a *Sarcochilus*, but with tiny white flowers (*Phreatia vitiensis*).

We also found a small, reddish frog hiding among the fallen epiphytes, and Don said this was a rather rare native. He was duly released after having his portrait taken.

At one place we stopped for a *D. prasinum* flowering on a clay bank. Don said it must have been blown there by a storm and couldn't survive there, so we dug it up, but it had by far the best root-system of any we had found, and had obviously been growing there for at least a couple of years, rooted several inches into the clay. I suppose that two metres up on a near-vertical bank it would have perfect drainage, so the medium would be almost irrelevant.

We returned to the house, collected our bedding, etc., and set out for home arriving at the hotel about 8.00 p.m.

In the morning I took a taxi to Don's where I spent all day sorting plants, cleaning leaves and roots, recording and naming. Next day we finished preparing the plants and bedded them in trays of moss.

On Saturday we did some shopping in Nadi and arranged for a rental car for Sunday. We had done most of what we had planned, and were now killing time till our departure on Tuesday morning. On Sunday

morning we made an early start on our final excursion into the hills, heading up to the Nausori Heights and on to the bush areas beyond. All of the bush in this area was severely battered and hopeless for orchids. The tree-trunks still standing had been "water-blasted" clean and white by the hurricanes and the litter on the ground was disappearing under creepers and other soft vegetation.

We did find two small trees in a gully with a *bulbophyllum* and two *dendrobiums* on them, and found one small *D. gordonii* on a fallen branch.

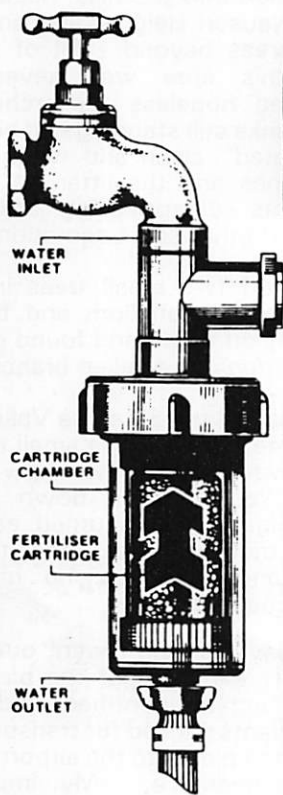
At the head of the Sigatoka Valley I spotted some *D. tokai* on a small tree and that was the last we saw of orchids. We continued down the valley to Sigatoka and turned east, and then tried a small road that headed inland, but saw no more orchids, so headed home.

On Monday morning I went out to Don's fairly early to get the plants other than orchids identified, and to get all the plants packed for transport. I then took the plants to the airport for agriculture clearance. My import permit stated that the orchids had to be dipped in an insecticide, so the officers dipped all plants in a mixture of white oil and diazinon.

We had a quick flight back to Auckland next morning, and the agriculture people cleared my plants fairly quickly, so that I was able to catch the afternoon flight for Whangarei.

The numerous handlings and also the oil dip caused a lot of roots to die on the orchid plants and a lot of leaves fell off, but the only orchids I lost were some of the least important, such as *Phreatia* and *Taeniophyllum*, and most plants are now making new growth and roots.

No. 9 R.D.
Whangarei



Champion fert·mat[®]

FERTILISER DISPENSER

The ideal addition to your orchid collection.

The advantages of using Fert-O-Mat. Easy to fit, simple to use, fertilize as you water, even distribution of fertilizer, use with any watering system, quick, convenient with excellent results. Unit comes complete with fertilizer plugs in initial purchase price.

Orchid experts agree orchids do best with regular soluble fertilizer feeds of fairly low strength.

Two analysis of fertilizer available: "Quick Green" corresponds to the U.S. recommendation for orchids of 30-10-10 or N.Z. 30-5-8.

"General Purpose" corresponds closely to the U.S. 10-10-10 for orchids in spike (Generally known as the blossom booster.)

Ferto-O-Mat provides the three main elements N.P.K. in the proportions recommended by both U.S. and N.Z. Orchid experts for orchids. (American Orchid Society Bulletin, N.Z. Orchid Review, Department Scientific & Industrial Research, Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries.) Both formula of fertilizer contain essential trace elements.

For best results use Fert-O-Mat with every watering. Quick Green is recommended for spring/summer growth, General Purpose blossom time.

Fert-O-Mat is also highly recommended for use in flower and vegetable gardening. Use Fert-O-Mat and judge the results for yourself.

AVAILABLE FROM SELECTED GARDEN CENTRES AND HARDWARE OUTLETS.

N.Z. Distributors

AUSTRALASIAN IMPORTS LTD.

P.O. Box 23-096
Papatoetoe

Phone: 278-4376
278-2039

SOME OBSERVATIONS ON PHALAEOPSIS

John Campbell

I think anyone who attended the International Orchid Conference Show, in Wellington, will agree that there were a lot of mighty good Phalaenopsis there and to pick out the best two or three would be a difficult job. From a judge's point of view, I should of course be able to do this, but I am still a keen enough orchid grower to discard judging standards and choose something mediocre simply because I like it. I'm not trying to knock the judging system but I firmly believe that "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder".

I have Phalaenopsis crosses in my collection which I made years ago, none of them have award potential but I love them.

Firstly, they are *my* babies and blood's thicker than water.

Secondly, by a stroke of luck, some of my early crosses produced some very unusual colours. Yellows with peachy overtones, salmon colours, not at all common. Considering the back-yard hick who bred them, these were rather startling results. Perfume! Some of the darned things had this as a bonus. Who could throw out any 'not too bad looking' Phal. with all the above traits—certainly not me. Now don't get me wrong, I'd still take a six inch, full formed dark pink Phal. off you if you were giving it away. I love them too. What I'm driving at, is that we shouldn't be too influenced by judging standards.

Let's look at the 'good' Phals. on show and make some observations.

The judging rules would have us choose those flowers nice and round like a saucer, slightly cupped like a saucer or preferably flat and as large as a saucer, if possible. Now just assume that every Phal. on display fell into that category. I just can't help feeling we would get a bit bored with them.

To me, I feel that the large whites and many of the pinks have gone about as far as they can go. Now I

hear gasps of horror, where did that man get his judging ticket, was it the local kindergarten dandelion competition?

Well, I had a fairly critical look at some of those Phals. and I think some have been pushed too far. The great aim has been to get those two petals large and round enough to overlap in front of the dorsal sepal. All right, some do, don't they? Now where does uniformity end? Once we breed floral parts large enough to overlap each other, then some part is being hidden. Is that uniformity?

I saw one Phal. at the Show with huge petals. They were so large that they locked together and forced each other forwards and to my eyes didn't look a bit nice. Perhaps I'm a stirrer.

Myself, I'm satisfied with the big whites and pinks; I'm off after the novelties as the range of colour, shape, substance and texture is exciting.

I'm sorry you breeders of massive white Phalaenopsis but I reckon you've gone too phlippin phar.

*21 Blakes Road
Prebbleton
Canterbury*



We are pleased to have received two replies to the letter about *Brassia verrucosa* in our May/June issue, and both are included here. Sharing and pooling information of this kind is valuable, and we welcome further queries and observations.

Editors

Flowering *Brassia Verrucosa*

Glenn Anderson



Brassia verrucosa Spring 1985

Grower and Photographer: Glenn Anderson

In the May/June 1986 issue, Dorothy Dennis of Te Puke wrote of her experiences with trying to flower *Brassia verrucosa*. We bought our plant from a society sales table at the Taranaki Orchid Show back in 1981. It was obviously a back division, consisting of two large old bulbs and four much smaller, newer bulbs. For the next three years it continued to grow and multiply with never a sign of a flower. Then in 1984 it had two small spikes, and in 1985, three much

larger spikes and more flowers. (It was at this stage that the photograph was taken).

Culturally, we treat our plant like a sunny Miltonia. We grow mostly Catt's, which are allowed to become fairly dry between waterings, but the Miltonias get misted every warm day and watered 2-3 times more often than the Catt's. But, whereas the Miltonias are kept slightly shaded the *Brassia* is kept in a brighter spot.

Our glasshouse temperature doesn't go below 12 °C in winter and gets up to 30 °C on a warm summer's day.

With reference to Dorothy's letter I tend to think her plant could use some more warmth in winter. Perhaps, also, April was a little late to divide and repot. The divided plants would

be entering the winter with no new active roots.

But the catch words for our growing conditions would have to be 'WARM, SUNNY, MOIST'. And we must be doing something right. There are now (August 1986) seven new spikes showing.

421 Pukehangi Road
Rotorua



Flowering *Brassia verrucosa*

Bob McCulloch

A couple of years ago, I saw a backbulb of *Brassia verrucosa* on the Sales Table at a Spring Show. As the saying goes, it is a beginner's plant and I liked the look of it, so it came home with me and has lived with my seedling Cattleyas ever since.

It has grown in an unspectacular sort of way, with long pauses in winter which make me almost forget about it, so when I read a recent letter complaining about the difficulty of flowering it, it seemed like a good time to pick it up and see what it was up to. It was a bit of a surprise to see that it was in spike, as I was mentally prepared to wait another few years and several repottings before giving my 'beginner's plant' to another beginner just to get a bit of bench space.

During last summer, the plant was kept in the glasshouse with Cattleya seedlings, shaded with two layers of 30% shade cloth, and with the walls and half of the roof area covered with white expanded polystyrene, and with the floor and plants hosed every morning before I went to work. Watering was done between one and three times a week, depending on the weather, and feeding was carried out

after every watering. Temperatures were a maximum of 35 °C during the day, and sometimes as low as 16 °C at night, and humidity varied between 60% and 100%.

As the weather got cooler, watering /feeding was gradually reduced to once every two weeks, and from the beginning of June was stopped altogether except for a spray with the hose once a month on a sunny day. The thermostat is set to turn on the heater at 12 °C, but with the cold weather during the winter it couldn't keep the temperature up and on several occasions it dropped to 6 °C.

All the seedlings have started to put out new shoots and watering/feeding was started again in early September. The *Brassia* hasn't got a new shoot, so this may be a desperate effort to flower and reproduce before dying, or it could be the natural growth pattern of the plant.

In any event, it is going to flower, and I can't really say that it has received any special treatment. Now that I know it is difficult to flower, next year will be the test!

18 Davis Crescent
Upper Hutt

BAY OF PLENTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



TISSUE CULTURE COURSES

We are running a series of introductory two day courses as well as our comprehensive five day courses in 1987. Both courses incorporate student practical work conducted in our modern lab, specially designed for teaching tissue culture.

Course Fees are:

\$55.00 for the two day course

\$220.00 for the five day course, including GST

Fees cover personal tuition, course materials and a complete Tissue Culture Manual.

For further information regarding dates of the courses and registration, please contact:

Bay of Plenty Community College
Private Bag
Tauranga

COMMUNITY POTS

Increase your collection or share with a friend. Healthy well grown plants in 5's for \$15 or 10's for \$25. Cattleyas. Odontoglossums, Vandas, Zygopetalums, Phalaenopsis.
Send SSAE for our new list.

Spring Specials

Paph. sukhakulii flowering size	\$13.50
Paph. gratixianum flowering size	\$16.50
Paph. Diversion New Orleans x Yurba Buena 'White Cap' (lovely large yellow/green) flowering size	\$10.50

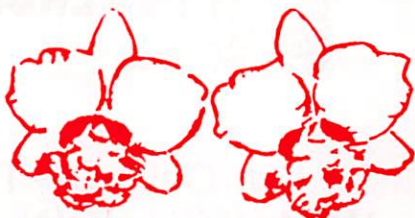
Packing and postage \$1.00 up to 5 plants, \$2 for more than 5 plants.

Our new summer catalogue has just been released, send SSAE for your copy.



HOUSE OF ORCHIDS

145 Manuka Road, Glenfield, Auckland 10
Phone 444-9771



The Cattleya Sellers

Caryl & John Sellers

R.D.2., Waiuku

Phone: (085) 32-753

Dear Friends,

John and I would like to thank you for your custom over the past year, and wish you all a very Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

Our summer list is available now, and contains an exciting range of large flowered and mini cattleyas, plus other bits and pieces, from well established 3" pots to flowering size, to entice you.

- We look forward to seeing you over the summer!

Best Regards,

Caryl
Xmas '86



QUALITY AT A REALISTIC PRICE - TRUST US
Members O.N.A.(N.Z.)



I'M ONE OF THE MUGS — WILL YOU JOIN ME FOR 1990?

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

Almost 100 years ago two auspicious gentlemen, Watson and Bean referring to Masdevallias recorded the following profound statement in "Orchids: Their Culture and Management". "One has to know these plants to understand the fascination they have for horticulturists. They grow on one until the desire for them becomes almost a mild species of madness". Nothing has changed.

Recent enquiries have convinced me that if there is any truth in the above, the numbers of orchidaceously demented individuals is increasing at a staggering rate and there is a likelihood that if the Government gets to learn of it, a tax will surely be imposed.

Per capita, we must have an exceptionally high ratio of enthusiasts growing introduced orchids and if we narrow this down to species, I rather think that we would be near the top in the world stakes. Formidable in the ranking must be the masdevallia alliance. The range of these cool growing, compact, colourful, long lasting and very intriguing orchids now being grown in this country is quite impressive and with a view to letting the rest of the world know about it, the group should come under greater scrutiny. If information can be dispersed soon, we just may be able to attract a greater number of visitors to the 1990 conference and this could include masdevallia specialists.

As a step in this direction, it would be desirable to compile a national register of all the clones of masdevallia and allied genera such as dracula, dryadella, etc. I have it on good authority that there are

approximately 350 species of masdevallia, 60 of dracula and 10 of dryadella. How many are represented in New Zealand? To my surprise, details from only four collections reveal that we have at least 81, 13 and 3 respectively and there will be a big increase on those figures if enthusiasts are willing to forward details. Even if the information is not used in connection with the conference, it is still of importance both nationally and internationally.

My request is that those who have the above genera, plus associated groups such as restrepia, pleurothallis, etc., record them, preferably in alphabetical order and forward these results to me. The source of plants would be helpful information but not essential and numbers of plants do not matter unless the owner particularly wishes to sell or exchange them. If there are several different clones of the same species or hybrid this would be useful information.

In order to safeguard privacy and confidentiality, any list of clones that was prepared for distribution would have no reference to ownership or origin. It would be helpful if it was made clear on the list whether or not

the information contained was to be kept confidential. Any enquiries generated would be handled by passing them on to the owner to make decisions on whether contact would be made with the enquirer unless in the compiling of the list, the owner states that he or she is not concerned about confidentiality.

Another factor could be included at this stage and that would be to note whether or not the owner would be willing to co-operate in supply of plants if it was considered feasible to mount a joint display at the 1990 conference. Perhaps some have bright ideas on the subject—let's hear them. It would be a help if growers could record which Masdevallias they have flowering during September and whether flowering time can be regulated in any way.

To add some grist to the mill some New Zealand growers have numerous unflowered hybrid seedlings available, some have seedlings still in flasks, yet others have pods and several have a glint in their eye and a hand-lens in their pocket waiting for suitable parents to flower with a view to either selling rare species or producing new hybrids. The next few years will be exciting in both fields.

The mention of pockets recalls another great excitement in the masdevallia world. If anyone has about \$1,200 burning a hole in their pocket, it would be wisely invested in a mammoth publication recently started in Germany with the towering name 'Thesaurus Masdevalliarum' (A Treasury of Masdevallias). It is being produced in a succession of parts, each of which includes 15 species in natural size and colour. It is pleasing to know that at least four sets are coming to enthusiasts in this country, all in the North Island. With seven parts here already, concern is being expressed at the disturbing weight imbalance between the two islands and South Islanders are being exhorted to subscribe in order that we won't capsize before 1990!



"Who is dis MUG Fuller anyway?"
Dracula chimaera looking for a victim.
Grower: Pukekura Park Photography: G. Fuller

Oh, yes! And what about this MUGS business that I started with? Did you pick up the clues? Well, it has to stand for 'Masdevallias Under Greater Scrutiny' of course! No charge to join—just a donation of blood for the draculas.

Curator
Pukekura Park
New Plymouth City Council
Private Bag
New Plymouth

TOWARDS 1990

In Hawkes Bay, an elderly orchid enthusiast has donated 50 Cymbidium plants to be sold, with the proceeds to go to the 1990 Conference. What a wonderful gesture that is.

South Pacific Orchids are donating 100 flasks prepared from special crosses made at an NZOS meeting last year, towards the 1990 Conference, and other special sales have occurred elsewhere.

Varying Habitats of New Zealand Orchids

Part 2

Jean M. Jenks

Probably the most common and abundant, yet very inconspicuous, are the tiny green *Microtis unifolia*. Varying habitats include lawns, pasture lands, clay banks, West Coast pakihi areas, under manuka scrub and on the "mineral belt" of Nelson where vegetation is sparse. Near Kaitaia they grow in the bogs, now being drained. But in the wet mossy patches of the Catlins in the far south they are undisturbed. On Dublin Terrace high above the Buller Gorge some plants more than 70cm tall grow in a mixture of beech litter and clay. On Rabbit Island in Tasman Bay they're growing on sand dunes under pine trees, while near Dunedin they grow on the exposed 767m high Mt Cargill in a thin layer of decomposed volcanic rock.

More conspicuous is the genus *Thelymitra*, commonly known as sun orchids. Flowers range in colour from white, pink, mauve to blue which can be plain or with spots or stripes. With few exceptions they can be found almost anywhere from North Cape to Bluff, at lower altitudes in open sunny situations.

Thelymitra pulchella thrives on clay banks, pakihi areas, under pines, and in wet mossy ditches on the West Coast, under light manuka or scrubby areas. *Thelymitra venosa* is a lover of damp mossy areas, being more at home in sphagnum swamps often with *Thelymitra hatchii* and *Aporostylis bifolia*. Isolated plants have been seen in clay and pakihi areas. At Waituna Lagoon their pretty, blue striped flowers emerge

from the grassy rushes. *Thelymitra hatchii* habitats range from decayed granite to clayey, stony areas where large plants often are produced in poor conditions. In the peat bogs near Owaka smaller plants with daintier flowers grow alongside *Aporostylis bifolia*.

Thelymitra dentata (which botanists are now considering as a cross between *Thelymitra pulchella* and *Thelymitra pauciflora*), *Thelymitra carnea*, *Thelymitra decora* and *Thelymitra formosa* usually are found in poor clay soil conditions.

Pine plantations, sand dunes, the grasslands of Travers Valley, stony clay areas, in loess overtopping volcanic soil on Banks Peninsula, under the manuka on the Rimutaka Hill, pakihi flats are all habitats of the white *Thelymitra longifolia*. Near Broadwood, Northland, this species was observed growing on clay banks, exhibiting flowers with a pale pink tinge. Plants don't appear plentiful on the "mineral belt", but are elsewhere relatively common.

Thelymitra pauciflora, not found in the far south, grows on clay banks, on scoria in the north, and on pakihi, under pines and manuka. Plants often form large clumps.

The beautiful spotted *Thelymitra ixioides* is abundant in pakihi areas, but has also been observed growing in clay in the Tararua forest.

Several species don't appear, from my observation to be variable in habitat and plants confine themselves

to a similar altitude. *Townsonia viridis* is usually located in moss under beech trees at a height of about 600 to 700 metres. Wet, mossy areas are where *Microtis oligantha* has been found. *Pterostylis plumosa*, exhibiting a beautiful labellum of fine, yellow hairs, grows in clay under light scrub. The small *Pterostylis venosa*, often difficult to distinguish from *Pterostylis humilis* prefers the mixed litter of herbfields. Lovers of fresh running water, *Corybas rivularis*, clings, often in large colonies to moss on the edge of streams, small waterfalls and dripping banks.

(to be continued)

*R.D.2.
Upper Matere
Nelson Province*

ORCHIDS IN NEW ZEALAND BACK ISSUES

Send for list of available issues, or with particular requests to:

Back Issues Secretary
Mrs G. Anderson
421 Pukehangi Road
Rotorua

Vol. 1-8: 50¢/issue
Vol. 9-10: \$1.00/issue
Vol. 11: \$4.50/volume
(3 issues)

*Marilyn and Bryan Johnson
invite*

COMMERCIAL EXPORT FLOWER GROWERS

To update your colour mix and varieties and extend your flowering season with healthy young Cymbidium plants from thousands in stock at our modern high-tech orchid nursery.

MARBLE GARDENS

Park Estate Road, Papakura

Ph. 298-6619

Ask for List

WANTED TO BUY

ORCHID BOOKS AND MAGAZINES

Please reply to:

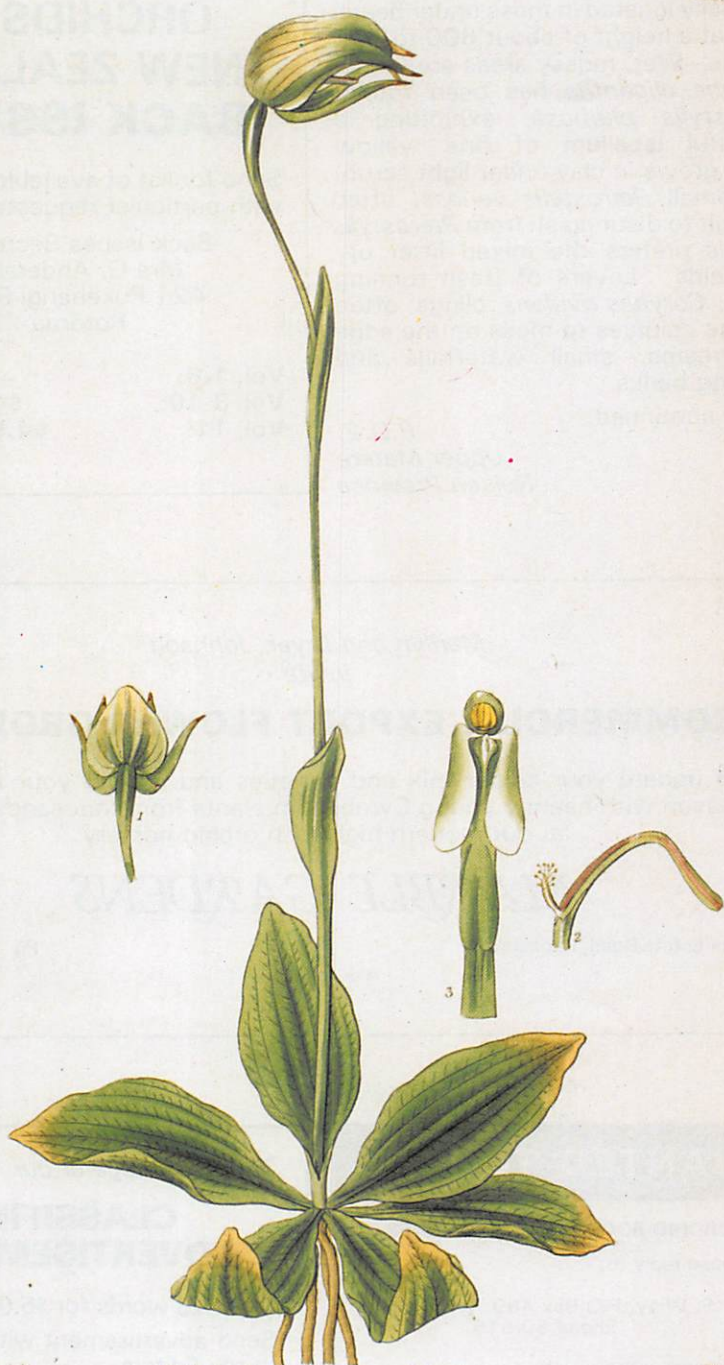
S. Wray, P.O.Box 489, Whangarei
Phone 60-515

stating condition and price.

Take advantage of our

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Up to 25 words for \$5.00
Send advertisement with payment,
to the Editors.



W. H. Bull

Pub by J. Curtis, Glenwood, Essex, July, 1851.

Swan 60

Pterostylis nutans

6. WILLIAM JACKSON HOOKER

(1785-1865)

Ian M. St. George

For most of the nineteenth century, William Jackson Hooker and his son Joseph Dalton Hooker were synonymous with botany: their contributions were outstanding.

Hooker senior was born in Norwich, and inherited money. By chance he discovered a rare moss in 1805, and from then on his interest was botany. In 1820 he was appointed Professor of Botany at Glasgow, and in 1841 accepted the Directorship of Kew, a position he held until his death.

He was author of more than twenty major works, and his main interests were ferns, mosses and fungi. He published Floras of Britain, Scotland and North America, and was a pioneer of economic botany. The books, journals and his herbarium made him the centre of British botany.

In 1826 he took over *Curtis's Botanical Magazine*, and the association gave the journal a truly scientific character—no longer merely "a drawing book for ladies" as it had been dubbed earlier. Hooker wrote the papers and executed all of the illustrations for ten years. He was a good artist, and his scientific knowledge no doubt gained from the discipline of minute observation that botanical drawing requires. During this time he illustrated other works as well.

He published, partly in the *Companion to the Botanical magazine*, and partly in the *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, Allan Cunningham's *Florae Novae-Zelandiae Praecursor*.

Plate. *Pterostylis nutans*.

Handcoloured engraving by William Jackson Hooker, 1831. From *Curtis's Botanical Magazine*. Reproduced courtesy of the Library, Botany Division, DSIR, Lincoln.

In the introduction to this New Zealand Flora, J. D. Hooker pays tribute to the collectors in New Zealand who sent specimens to Kew, among them "Dr Munro, who has added many beautiful alpine species to the 'New Zealand Flora', and sent an excellent herbarium of Nelson plants to Sir W. J. Hooker". The Hocken Library in Dunedin has the lists, and Hooker's letters and identifications to Munro. Munro includes, for example, "71: blue orchids from Moutere Hills . . . 94: pale green orchids . . . 152: blue orchids near the lake . . . 164: white orchids crimson bars . . . 171: yellowish white orchids . . .". Hooker identifies them (and can 164 be right?) "94 orchid . . . 71, 152, 164, 171 *Thelymitra* . . . 130/1 *Spiranthes* . . . 191/3 *Microtis* . . .".

What is clear from the letters is the reason that the Hookers commanded such devotion from their collectors: W. J. Hooker took no end of trouble to praise and encourage Munro (and even Munro's shepherd, who evidently did a good deal of the collecting). He even sent Munro the chapters of his son's Flora as they came off the press. He ends one letter with "I hope your country is flourishing and will have a good and useful government. My friend Sir G. Grey does not seem to have pleased all parties,—but he is a most accomplished and gentlemanly man—and his wife a perfect lady".

In 1831 *Curtis's Botanical Magazine* carried a paper and W. J. Hooker's beautiful painting of *Pterostylis nutans*, a specimen "Introduced to the Royal Gardens at Kew from New Holland, in the year 1826. The drawing was made from an excellent flowering specimen, in

JOHN EASTON AWARD 1986

The John Easton Award is made annually by the Hawke's Bay Orchid Society Inc., 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 1986 is

Mr Des Leahy

of the New Zealand Orchid Society Inc. The presentation was made by Andrew Easton at the Hawke's Bay Society's Annual Show, at Hastings, on Saturday 13th September, when the presence of representatives from other Societies helped make the occasion a special one.

Des has a long history of involvement in orchids—he is perhaps better known in our northern area, but his out-of-Auckland activities have been many and varied. Well versed in management, his friendly advice and counsel is widely accepted by many Societies.

A brief summary of his activities is listed:

Joined the N.Z.O.S. in 1967—served as Show Secretary and Executive member 1969-74, Vice-President 1973, President 1975-77, Show Marshall 1978-86 and was awarded the N.Z.O.S. "Gold Medal of Achievement" 1986. Has been a Vice-President of CONZED and is a current committee member. Represented New Zealand at a meeting of the World Orchid Site Committee during the Miami Conference, and is Chairman of the Publicity Committee for the 1990 Conference.

Shows and judging are his main interests—he is a senior member in both Council and N.Z.O.S. judging panels and is an associate with the CSA group. He has been a guest judge in Bangkok, Miami and California and a leader at our two New Zealand International Shows.

Des is often on call to give talks or demonstrations, a source of advice (and comfort) to all growers—from novice to the commercial sector.

*Mrs E. Allen
Secretary
John Easton Award Committee*

September 1828, and obligingly communicated by Mr Aiton". Aiton was the gardener at Kew, and the specimen was no doubt collected by Allan Cunningham whom Banks had sent out to collect plants, in Australia. *Pterostylis nutans* has been recorded in New Zealand only from Northland, and not since 1942. It is common in Australia, and is no doubt an occasional migrant to New Zealand on the westerly winds. *45 Cargill Street
Dunedin*

ADDRESS CHANGE

Capital City Orchid Society Inc.
Secretary:

Mr B. E. Wilson
P.O.Box 3839
Wellington

Telephone, evenings 84-702

Sherlock's Orchids

where you can detect quality

We grow

**CATTLEYAS, DENDROBIUMS,
ODONTOGLOSSUMS, PAPHIOPEDILUMS,
PHALAENOPSIS, VANDAS**

and sell flowering size plants ex nursery only.

Why not call in when next in our locality - we are only five minutes drive north of Otaki, and are open 9.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m. Thursday-Sunday (inclusive) or phone for an appointment.

KEVIN AND LYN SHERLOCK

Atkins Road, Manakau. Phone MNK 698



**ROLAND &
McCARLIE**

**Annadale Road
1 R.D., KUMEU, AUCKLAND**



**WE STOCK A REPRESENTATIVE SELECTION OF
EXCLUSIVE CYMBIDIUM MERICLONES AND SEEDLINGS
OF TOP QUALITY AWARD AND SHOW POTENTIAL.**

Sole N.Z. Agents for:



**McBEANS
ORCHIDS
(AUSTRALIA) PTY. LTD.**

TAURANGA BARK LTD.

trading as Tauranga Granulated Bark
BRUCE AND SANDRA KENNY

Graded Orchid Bark granulated in six different sizes

also ideal for garden uses

- No. 3 ¼" - ½" suits young plants
- No. 4 ½" - ¾" usual orchid mix
- No. 5 1" coarse
- No. 6 extra coarse

Available in bulk, bagged or by the trailer load
Delivery available throughout the North Island
Open Saturday

Maleme Street, Tauranga

P.O.Box 3213
Greerton
Tauranga

Phone 85-741
After Hours 62-664

Specializing
in

PHALAENOPSIS

including new imports from
U.S.A.

QUALITY PLANTS
PLUS
FRIENDLY SERVICE

Call in - you'll be glad you did

Longview Orchids

Eric and Vorrei Jones
Main Waihi Road,
Bethlehem,
Tauranga
Phone: (075) 64668

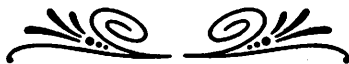
NEW ZEALAND EXPORT GROWERS ORCHID ASSN. INC

NZ E.G.O.

*All intending and exporting
orchid growers, orchid plant
retailers, orchid tissue culture
laboratories, orchid export
companies and interested
persons, are invited to write for
further information regarding
the above Association to:*

**The Secretary,
NZ E.G.O.
P.O. Box 2107, Tauranga**

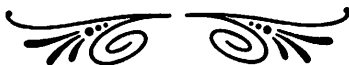
Tucker's of Bayswater



We have again increased our range with our new lists including plants and flasks of almost all types of orchids.

New From

Wondabah Orchids	Australia
Peninsular Orchids	U.S.A.
David Stead Orchids	England
Ratcliffe Orchids	England
Guest Orchids	Australia
Sandon Exotic Orchids	Australia
Mansell and Hatcher Ltd	England
our own Tuckers of Bayswater	New Zealand



These will be of interest to anyone wanting something different and unusual.

No one nursery can supply all types of orchids. So if you can't resist

Buy the Best from us

Send for list to

Mr Ross Tucker

51 King Edward Avenue, Bayswater, Auckland 9

Phone 456-692

VENTROL

★ P.V.C. HYDRAULIC RAMS

Use your water supply to power rams to open/close vents or louvres.
Diameters 25mm, 40mm, 50mm, 80mm

Any stroke length, Single acting, Double acting, Spring return.

Note: Supply details of water pressure and load on manual arm/rope or pulley

Aspirated Screens, Plastic Box (Thermostat fitting optional), Max./Min. Thermometer, Wet Bulb Thermometer, Easy fill water reservoir, Humidity Chart.

★ RAM WINDERS

N.Z. PAT. APPLN. 217274

Rolls up sides of Plastic houses. Price \$650 + GST. Price includes 24 V.a.c. double acting solenoid valve block.

★ THERMOSTATS

For

HEATING – 20A

HEATING/COOLING (Open/close vents)

★ HUMIDISTATS

To control humidity

★ HUMIDIFIERS

★ AUTOMATIC VENT OPENER

Kitset contains thermostat, water solenoid valve, 2 x rams plus brackets. Hose and connections.

For further details write to:

P. L. MADDEN

Hooper Road, R.D.4., Hamilton

Phone 291-743 A/H

TUDOR ORCHIDS

Ken and Patricia Elms
Greatford Road (State Highway One)
3 kms North of BULLS
Phone (0652)48-966

Sole New Zealand Distributors for

Fordyce Orchids of America
For the finest in Miniature cattleyas

We Stock . . .

Cymbidiums - Standard and miniature
Phalaenopsis
Cattleyas
Odontoglossum alliance

PRIME ORCHID MIX
MICROFEED FERTILIZER

Postal address:
P.O. Box 103, BULLS

HOURS . . .
Tuesday - Sunday 9-5
Mondays by appointment only

TWIN OAKS BOOKS

4343 Causeway Drive, Lowell,
Michigan U.S.A.
Phone: (616) 897-7479
MASTERCARD AND VISA

ORCHID BOOKS

*Send for FREE descriptive
list of just about 300
currently available Orchid
Books . . . Sent Surface
Mail anywhere in the
world, postpaid!!!*

The Phally House

TAUPO

**SPECIALISING IN
PHALAEOPSIS**

Varieties and prices available
on request

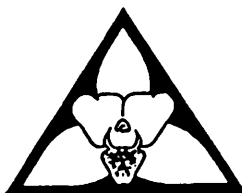
Visitors welcome by prior arrangement

TREVOR NICHOLLS
33 Hinekura Avenue, Taupo
Phone (074) 84-813
(Answerphone)

MacLeod's Exotic Orchid Nurseries

Mail Order Specialists

P.O.Box 4469
Christchurch
New Zealand



We always have an interesting range of hybrids and species of most genera . . .

Miltonia, Cattleya, Dendrobium, Vanda,
Paphiopedilum, Cymbidium, Odontoglossum,
Lycaste, Zygopetalum, Phalaenopsis,
Masdevallia, Coelogyne

. . . and lots more

If you are a serious grower or just starting you should be on our mailing list.

Write today for your free copy of our current illustrated catalogue.

We ship year around and guarantee safe arrival, anywhere!

Nursery: 547 Harewood Road, Harewood, Christchurch
Visitors are welcome by appointment

White is Right for Cymbidium cut flower production

We are offering 12 high quality clones, which are ideal for export, including:

Cherilyn 'Swansea' - fast proving itself as an excellent producer of top quality early blooms. Flasks \$45.

Winter Wonder 'Frosty Jack' - superb clean white tetraploid, with very good production and ideal flower count. Flasks \$55.

Cleo's Melody 'Eldorado' - superior August tetraploid. Beautiful, clear white blooms - good flower count. Flask \$45.

Pharoah 'Almighty' - pure colour tetraploid, mid season. Flasks \$45.

Highland Mist 'Lalchere' - top quality for the late end of the season when prices rise. Flasks \$45.

Our flasks contain 20 sturdy, quick-growing mericlones.

Larsen's Orchids

16 Parker Road, Oratia, Auckland.

Phone: (09)817-8429.

N.Z. HYDROPONICS LTD.

LEAF ANALYSIS & NUTRIENT SUPPLY SERVICE

Full analytical service; leaf, water, nutrient, potting media

FULL RANGE OF FERTIGATION CHEMICALS

Bulk supply or small lots (1 tonne to 250 grammes.)

INCLUDING:

Ammonium Molybdate
Borax
Calcium Nitrate
Copper Chelate
Iron Chelate
Magnesium Chelate
Magnesium Sulphate

Manganese Sulphate
Mono Potassium Phosphate
Nitric Acid
Phosphoric Acid
Potassium Nitrate
Zinc Chelate
Zinc Sulphate

SPECIAL MIXES: Makes up to 4000 litres of feed.

A 9	Cymbidium Nursery Mix	\$22.40
A 10	Cymbidium Flowering Mix	\$22.40
A 11	Phalaenopsis Mix	\$24.50

MIXES FORMULATED TO YOUR OWN SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS.

HYDROPONIC/FERTIGATION
SPREAD RIGHT, THROUGH OUR NATION
CHECK YOUR NEED, FROM OUR LIST
ANYTHING WE HAVE MISSED?

CONTROL AND TEST EQUIPMENT

INCLUDING: pH meters; conductivity (CF) meters. Temperature control; auto misting controllers; and many many more.

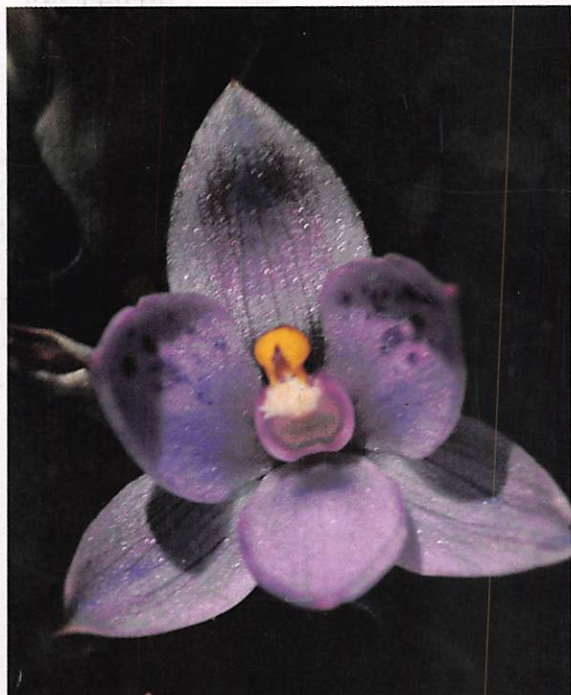
CAPILLARY MATTING; bench and bed material, imported in 6 feet wide rolls, \$10.20 per meter.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON PRICES ETC:

New Zealand Hydroponics Ltd.

P.O. Box 949, Tauranga
Telephone (075)80849

PORTRAITS OF NEW ZEALAND ORCHID SPECIES



▲ *Thelymitra decora*

Thelymitras are terrestrial, with a solitary, often fleshy leaf, and a raceme of flowers which open widely in the sun - they are sometimes called sun orchids. Several species are found in both Australia and New Zealand.

The sepals and petals are all similar and the lip is not usually different from the petals. The shape and colour of the top of their columns distinguish the species.

▼ *Thelymitra ixioides*

Both of these flowers were photographed on Rainbow Mountain, South of Rotorua, in November 1984 by Bob Goodger. These species both grow on roadside banks and under scrub, with *T. decora* in the more open situations.

