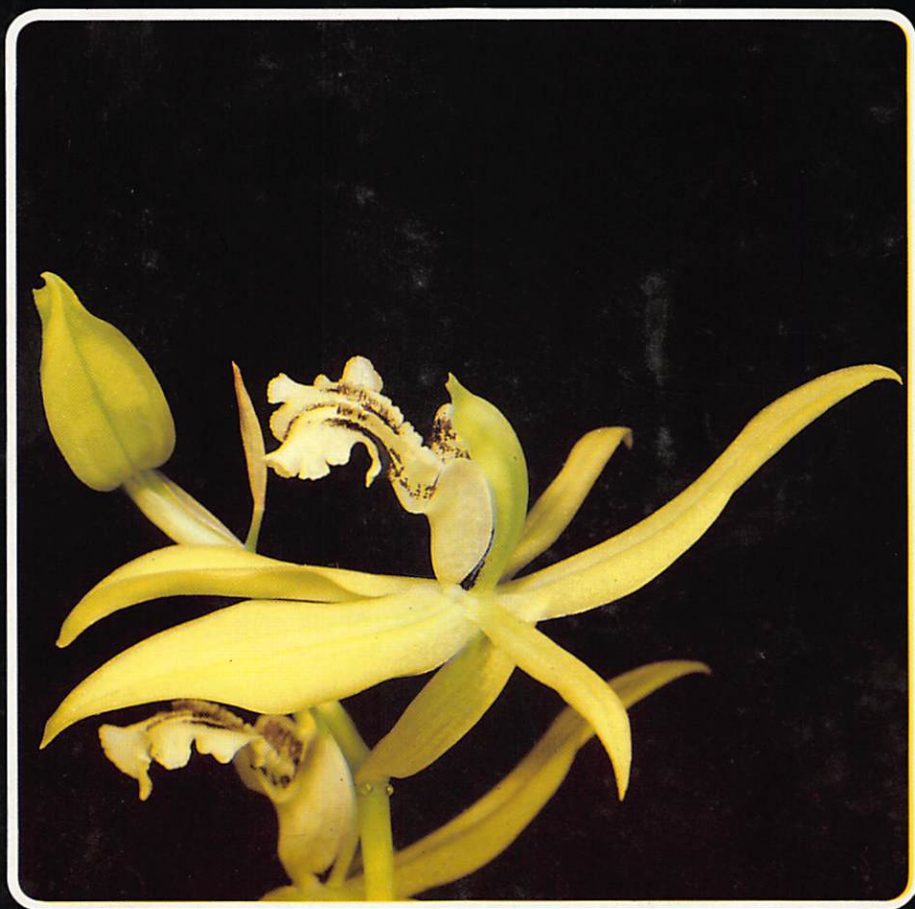


Orchids

IN NEW ZEALAND



Volume 13—No. 6
November/December 1987

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incorporating 'The New Zealand Orchid Review'

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

ORCHID COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND
NEW ZEALAND ORCHID SOCIETY

VOL. 13, No. 6 NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1987

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EDITORIAL

THOSE "OTHER GENERA . . ."

Recently, under the driving force from several Taranaki enthusiasts, an unofficial "Masdevallia Group" has been formed. A primary function of this group is to organise a really comprehensive display of Masdevallias and related genera at the World Orchid Conference in 1990. To this end they are producing a Newsletter and compiling lists of the various species and hybrids grown in New Zealand. And very impressive the lists are, already.

Their recent Newsletter, Number Two, contains an excerpt from an encouraging letter from the 13th World Orchid Conference Committee . . . "We hope that the concept of a Masdevallia Society and a single

genus display will catch on for a number of other genera. This is a tremendous idea and we are all looking forward to your contribution."

We think it is a tremendous idea also, and will give all possible assistance, through the pages of this magazine, to such groups. Either editorial material (including illustrations) or publicity material will be welcome. We suggest that growers of such genera as *Coelogyne*, *Pleione*, *Phragmipedium*, *Angraecum* and various other attractive but lesser-known plants, might like to get in contact with each other to plan such an exhibit. Who knows how much enjoyment and value might arise from such enterprises?

Mid-Summer Orchid Display

Cricket Pavilion, Pukekura Park,
New Plymouth

Saturday 9th and
Sunday 10th January 1988
10.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m.

Enjoy orchids not usually displayed at meetings or shows, with emphasis on *Disa* and *Masdevallia*.

Plants brought from afar especially welcome.

Viewing of the spectacular and unique lighting of park and city a special bonus.

Notification not essential but helpful. Some billeting available.

Secretary
Taranaki Orchid Society
Mrs C. Bruce
509 Carrington Road
New Plymouth
Phone 34-583

FRONT COVER

Coelogyne virescens

An uncommon, but elegant member of this genus. It comes from Vietnam, S.E. Asia.

Photography: Bob Goodger

BACK COVER

Thelymitra longifolia

Photography: Bob Goodger

CORRECTION

We apologise for the error made in the last issue, in the information about the Back Cover Illustration. It was, of course, as its caption indicated, *Thelymitra carnea*.

For further information about those photos, see p. 176, in this issue.



Native Orchid Reserve

Max Gibbs

A native orchid reserve has been established at Iwitahi in the Waimahia forest by Timberlands BOP. This is the first such reserve in New Zealand and it is fitting that the announcement was made during Nature Conservation Week.

In 1985 the Taupo Orchid Society took a field trip to Iwitahi in the Waimahia pine forest to investigate the reported sighting by society member, Ken Scott, of native orchids under the tall pines. The trip was an enormous success and was reported in 'Orchids in New Zealand' (Vol. 12(2):49-54). In 1986 the trip was repeated with a group of enthusiasts staying overnight at the camp. On this trip specimens of *Chiloglottis gunnii* were found . . . the first sighting in the North Island (Orchids in New Zealand—Vol. 13(3):63). The importance of the area was recognised and the possibility was discussed of getting the area preserved or conserved so that the native orchid populations were not lost when the forest was logged.

To that end, I talked to the Department of Conservation and wrote to Timberlands BOP, with a proposal that the area of concern be left until adjacent new plantings of pine had been established. The orchids under the old pines would provide a seed stock for the new areas. Timberlands BOP considered the idea and set up a meeting with myself, Trevor Nicholls and Darrell Campbell, at the beginning of August at Iwitahi to discuss the issue.

We had nearly missed out. Part of the area had already been logged and another was in the process of being logged. The central stand of trees, however, were still intact. We were able to show Glenn Johnston and Mark Strong of Timberlands BOP the emerging native orchids and they agreed that the area was important and worth saving. They went much further than the original concept. On

their recommendation the central block of pines are to be given reserve status.

They have also halted the clear fell logging in the adjacent pines until after Christmas to enable the transplanting of orchids from that area into the new reserve and the Taupo Botanical Gardens. The use of herbicide sprays in one area is also to be banned to protect the populations of *Calochilus robertsonii*.

It is rather ironic that the native orchids have developed so well under the pine trees. Very little is known about the growth requirements of many native orchids and future studies may reveal the secret to the success of this particular habitat.

We are very fortunate that Timberlands BOP could appreciate the importance of the area and could incorporate it into their conservation plans. Through their efforts and those of the Taupo Orchid Society, the new reserve will provide a repository of native orchids for study by interested groups for many years to come. The first of these is the Native Orchid Forum in early December 1987.

15 Rahui Street
Taupo

Best Wishes from the Editors for the coming year.

May we all grow our orchids better than ever before!

Merry
Christmas

13th World Orchid Conference 1990

Auckland, New Zealand

September 1987

5th Newsletter

Programme

A tentative programme has been struck as follows:

September 1990	Day	Evening
Wednesday 5th	Initial staging and	
Thursday 6th	setting up stands	
Friday 7th	and booths	
Saturday 8th	Final Setting up	
Sunday 9th	Show and Sales areas	
Monday 10th	Judging	Registrants Preview Party
Tuesday 11th	Registrants viewing	Charity Party
Wednesday 12th	Lectures/Show open to public	Home entertainment
Thursday 13th	Lectures/Show open to public	New Zealand Night
Friday 14th	Lectures/Show open to public	Night Trots (Racing)
Saturday 15th	Lectures/Show open to public	Banquet
	Closing Ceremony	
Sunday 16th	Show open to public	
	Close 1700 hours	
Monday 17th	Clean Up	
Tuesday 18th	Clean up	

This will give you some food for thought and put some initial flesh on the year 1990. It will also give everyone the dates to aim their best orchids at. It begins to become important to start preparing and give special treatment to those quality plants known to bloom at that time of the year.

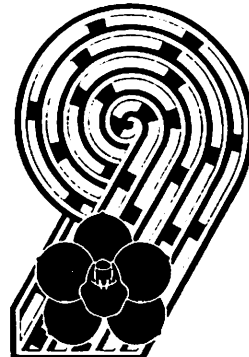
Promotional Items

Heather Crofskey has been working hard preparing special items and distributing them around Societies for sale. The aim is to keep 1990 in your minds and to vent some of the enthusiasm we know to be out there amongst orchid growers throughout New Zealand. Sale of these items are a ready means to supplement your own efforts in fund raising. We now have -Badges, Spoons, Tea-Towels, Car Stickers and soon to have Magnets. Hope you can assist in selling these not only to your Society members but also to the public.

Display Slide Programme

Along with sort out and special treatment of your best orchids comes the importance of designing your display well before 1990. We have an excellently prepared slide programme on exhibition displays, how-to and how-not-to, prepared by Nancie Bonham. She is willing to present this as a programme for one of your meetings if you are within reasonable distance of Auckland. For those further afield the slides and notes can be borrowed for your own presentation. Let us know if you are interested.

For your advance information, display module size at the Auckland Showgrounds is 3m x 3m. You will be able to take one or more modules and have a choice between wall side or centre. Some areas can be viewed from balconies which should exercise inventive minds.



Visits

If you would like a personal visit from a Planning Committee member to talk on the latest planning for the Conference, please let us know. We aim to visit most, if not all, Societies if requested over the next couple of years before the big event. We need your ideas and feedback to get a total New Zealand wide involvement in 1990.

Accommodation

Many people have asked about accommodation bookings but most Hotels and Motels will not accept bookings more than 18 months ahead of time. So that is the target, March 1989 for your early bookings. Nearer the time we will keep you posted on any special arrangements.

Committees

A number of Sub-Committees are now working. If you have special interest in any of these and can offer service, please contact us. Marvellous to have volunteers.

- Finance
- Publicity and Public Relations
- Show
- Judging
- Lecture/Scientific
- Proceedings
- Hospitality
- Social Functions

Liaison Officers

We now have 17 Liaison Officers dotted around New Zealand which is quite satisfying. There are plenty of areas, however, still without this special link so we will be glad to hear from you. The main tasks are to pass on news and information from us to you and from you to us. This way we all become we, if you see what I mean.

*R. W. Dix
Chairman*

Publicity and Public Relations Committee

*Merry
Christmas*

Reminiscences

Fredis Cochrane

Reading George Fuller's interesting article on *Disa*'s has prompted me to write about one species that kept me on my toes. Way back in the 1960's I had half a dozen orchid plants. The orchid bug had not bitten me then. In those days an issue of the 'New Zealand Gardener' showed a photo

across two pages of a beautiful red hooded flower. I read the article describing the visit of the committee of the N.Z.O.S. to see these exotic orchid plants—none other than *Disa uniflora*. I gazed at the picture and thought how I would like to grow one of them. I got in touch with the man who had grown them, who said "forget about them, you won't be able to grow them." This made me more determined than ever to grow a *Disa*. Several years later I was invited by a grower from St. Heliers, Mr Leo Patterson, one of the most knowledgeable species growers I have ever known, to view his orchids; he showed me a group of plants from tiny seedlings to large flowering size, saying they were *Disas*. I could not believe my eyes—here I was looking at the real thing. I told him how I had longed to grow them after seeing the photo, and I arrived home that day with one very small *Disa* plant, with instructions on how to grow it.

It grew very fast for six months, then one morning when I went out to tend to it, it had collapsed overnight. I rang Mr Patterson, told him the sad story, and when I saw him later he gave me another one.

For eighteen months I gave it the best of attention that any plant could expect. Then came Christmas holidays to the beach. What was I going to do with this *Disa*? I could not leave it with a kind neighbour to look after it—it was in spike; so the plant came on holiday too. When we came home from the beach the *Disa uniflora* was out, with five spikes, the tallest 45cm high and 21 flowers. I rang the N.Z.O.S. Show Marshal, who came out and thought it was worth judging, so next day the judges from N.Z.O.S. arrived.

The result was an Award of Distinction and a Cultural Certificate, on the 13th January 1976. I still grow *Disas*!

*R.D.4.,
Hikurangi*

FRED. A. POWELL

Family and many friends were preparing to acknowledge the celebration of Fred Powell's 100th birthday on the 21st August 1987, when within only a few weeks of that date, he passed away. The sadness of this news to myself, my wife and family, is very personal and will be shared by the great numbers of orchid lovers who over the past 39 years have made his acquaintance through his association with the New Zealand Orchid Society.

Mr Powell was born in East Anglia and migrated to New Zealand at the age of 21, having been trained as a Nurseryman. In 1912, he stated a nursery in Hastings but it was not until moving to Henderson in 1927 that orchid growing assumed a more important role as the consequence of use in floral work and decoration. Following on from his great skill of producing handsome specimens of palms and container grown plants for adornment of buildings, he was soon doing the same with cymbidiums, and particularly with his great love, paphiopedilums. It is unlikely that we will see again, specimen plants equal to his best.

By 1948, a core of enthusiasts in Auckland had banded together and on the 12th May founded the New Zealand Orchid Society. Mr Powell was a Foundation Committee Member and subsequently performed the duties of Judge and Show Marshal in the days when the Annual Show was held at Milne &

Choyce's store. His dedicated efforts for the success of the Society, always carried out in an unassuming manner, subsequently resulted in him being granted Life Membership and ultimately the distinction of Patron. He set a very high standard and was an inspirational figure in encouraging others to strive harder, even to donating a trophy.

His skills as an orchid grower were not lost on his daughter Mrs Rene Julian, who continues to cultivate paphs. with higher than an average level of success.

Those who knew Mr Powell will have benefitted from the experience, and our world is the richer for his having passed our way.

Condolences are extended to his family, with special appreciation extended for dedication shown in sustaining his contact with home and plants.

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

NEW ZEALAND ORCHID SOCIETY (INC.)

1987 Winter Show—Major Trophy Winners

Grand Champion Orchid
-Lion Trophy
Grand Champion Paphiopedilum
-Society's Cup
Reserve Champion
Paphiopedilum
Grand Champion Miniature
or Novelty Cymbidium -Corban Trophy

-Mrs J. Theobold
Miltonia Rouge 'Waitohu'
-B. Fraser
P. Keyeshill x Valwin
-B. Fraser
P. wardii
-D. Lilly
C. Kyancutta 'Sweet Lorraine'

JOHN EASTON AWARD 1987

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 nominations that came forward from many of our Affiliated Societies were excellent and made the selection very difficult indeed. We thank all Societies who contributed.

The recipient for 1987 is

Mr Tony Ballard
New Zealand Orchid Society
Auckland

Tony started as a grower in 1973 and joined the New Zealand Orchid Society in 1974. He has held executive positions in this Society and also the South Auckland Orchid Society and has been awarded Life Membership in both these Clubs. He is an accredited Judge and has served as a delegate to the Orchid Council of New Zealand for five years. He is President of the Cymbidium Society of Australasia, has twice visited as an observer to C.S.A. Shows in Santa Barbara and San Diego, U.S.A. He was Speaker at the C.S.A. Annual Conference in Santa Barbara in 1986 and also spoke in San Diego the same year. He is now an active member of the interim Committee for the 13th World Conference to be held in Auckland in 1990—all of us know what a huge undertaking this will be.

Tony's main interest has been in growing and showing cymbidiums with a small selection of other genera, cool-growing in the main. His enthusiasm and energy make him a worthy recipient of the National Award.

Mrs I. Burge
Secretary
John Easton Award Committee

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Vol. 14, No. 2:
1st February 1988

A.N.O.S. News

March 1987

The Australasian Native Orchid Society is now over 23 years old, and the current Council of the Society is taking stock of its progress, achievements and failures as a body, particularly in line with the objects of the Society as quoted in the first Orchadian.

Not being content with our findings, action is being taken to both improve and update our Society so that not only will members be more satisfied, but the Australasian native orchid will be helped to be given its rightful place in the world.

To achieve this improvement an Organisation Sub-Committee has been set up to place A.N.O.S. on a business footing. Briefly, the organisation will comprise seven Sub-Committees responsible to the Council, and to whom they will make monthly reports.

The other six Sub-Committees are—

FINANCE

Responsible for all finance matters including budgeting.

PUBLICATIONS

To be responsible for all Society publications; it will be in two sections—

1. The Editors of the Orchadian, and
2. Operations, who will be responsible for obtaining material and for general every day running matters for all our publications.

This should ensure that members are kept informed on all aspects of the technical and non-technical side of our hobby.

To this end it is intended to widen the field of expertise by calling on experienced and knowledgeable persons, to assist with the operations and to participate in our native orchids future by becoming an Editorial Associate for their own area. This

should ensure that the Orchadian is upgraded immensely and that our members are kept better informed. It is anticipated there will be at least one Editorial Associate for each State and in some cases more than one.

Amongst those who have agreed to become Editorial Associates are—

Mr Len Lawler, Atherton, Queensland.

Dr. P. (Bill) Lavarack, Townsville, Queensland.

Dr. Brian Molloy, New Zealand.

Mr Neville Howcroft, New Guinea.

Mr Clive Dunlop, Darwin, Northern Territory.

MARKETING

Responsible for all marketing matters, be they the sale of our publications and their distribution, the obtaining of new members, publicity in general or the sale of various products as they may become available, etc.

CONSERVATION

To be responsible to produce and implement our conservation policy.

JUDGING PANEL

To be responsible for all judging and related matters, including the training of new judges. The Nomenclature Committee and the Ira Butler Committee will be responsible to this Sub-Committee.

GROUP LIAISON

To be responsible for keeping the groups informed in all matters and on a regular basis. So far we have appointed each of our Councillors to look after one or two groups, and have charged them with the responsibility of keeping in touch with

their particular group or groups on at least a monthly basis.

Obviously effective liaison means good communication from Council to group and vice-versa. To help in achieving this, Council is requesting that each group appoint an A.N.O.S. Liaison Officer. His or her duty would be to form that vital link between group members and Council. It is proposed that this person would be identified to fellow members with a badge (provided by Council) and will communicate to Council on all matters of interest or concern, relating to native orchids or the Societies' operation.

For Council's part, it is proposed that a quarterly "A.N.O.S. News" will be compiled and sent to each group, affiliated Society and Editorial Associate. The purpose of the "News" will be to inform all members of current issues and to provide a forum for their inter-group discussion. The "News" will be mailed to each group, etc., at the beginning of each March, June, September and December.

Its content will consist of general information or discussion items from the groups as well as news from Council on the current business of the Society. The "News" will not duplicate or compete with material that is currently published in the

Orchadian or indeed the various groups newsletters or bulletins. Its sole objective is to improve communication between members and their Council.

Council looks forward to strengthening the Societies links with its members and awaits your advice of the name and address of your new A.N.O.S. Liaison Officer.

'The Orchadian', the A.N.O.S. Journal, publishes varied information on native orchids. Its contributions are mostly from Australia, but some N.Z. content is included when available.

Closer links between groups promoting native orchids in the different countries and states is one objective of the re-organisation.

Information may be offered to or received from:

*The Secretary, A.N.O.S.,
C/o B. & C. Mailing Service Pty. Ltd.,
Box 4142, G.P.O. Sydney,
N.S.W. 2001, Australia*

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**ELEVENTH AUSTRALIAN
ORCHID CONFERENCE
—SYDNEY—**

18th-25th September 1988

Australian Orchid Review

Issued quarterly each March, June, September and December.

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Single Copy Airmail—\$US7.50. Back Issues, send SAE for list of available issues.

14 MCGILL STREET, LEWISHAM, SYDNEY, N.S.W., AUSTRALIA 2049

Cattleya aclandiae

John Campbell

I am particularly interested in breeding mini-cattleyas and had obtained a plant of *C. aclandiae* for this purpose some 10 years ago. It never grew very well for me in the usual bark potting mix, flowered infrequently and had a poor root system.

I tried a piece in fern fibre in a slat basket with slightly better results, but not much. I was so taken by this beautiful orchid, that I bought a flask from Australia hoping that I might obtain a few strong growers among the 20 or so plants.

The plantlets of *C. aclandiae* from flask were generally a disaster with all but six or eight passing on to that already crowded orchid heaven. I tried some of the survivors on natural cork bark where they grew slowly in size and vigour.

Although I took good care of them, I must assume that *C. aclandiae* from flask is quite difficult.

An imported piece from Brazil plus several pieces obtained throughout New Zealand over the years struggled on but only half-heartedly.

A year or two back, there was a good article in one of the American bulletins showing photographs of the hot dry valley where *C. aclandiae* grows on stunted trees. Had I used my head and given some thought to the tough leathery leaves of *C. aclandiae*, I should have drawn this conclusion anyway. However, there's none so blind as those who cannot see.

I decided the now substantial collection of these plants should be mounted on small slabs of cork, and hung up high. Unfortunately I couldn't obtain any more of the natural cork bark so I chose slabs of compound cork tiles about 15cm by 10cm and 1cm thick. The plants started to grow well at last. Roots spread over the cork and took off downwards into space with great gusto. Some of these original slabs

now have multiple growths and roots hanging down as far as 60cm.

This year I flowered three clones all at once and as others became better established, I should expect to have the largest collection of flowering *C. aclandiae* in the country. I've tried other orchids on compound cork and some species just don't like it so don't take this success as being advocated for all epiphytic orchids. Because the compound cork deteriorates in two or three years, I have looked for a longer lasting material.

Some years back I mounted several varicosum type Oncidiums on 30cm lengths of the common little tree fern trunks which had very little fibre on them. I discovered over a period of time that those with a lot of fibre on got wet and mossy in a short time and orchids didn't seem to do so well once this state was reached. With this in mind, I removed all but the thinnest layer of fibre from the woody inner trunks with a coarse rasp. These fern poles have proved to be ideal for a wide variety of orchids.

At our last Orchid Show I purchased three pots of *C. aclandiae* from a commercial grower and each pot contained two or three well advanced plants. These were removed from the potting mix (September 1986) and mounted on several fern poles about 20cm long. Roots have clambered all over the fern poles feeling their way into all the little niches and growing partially buried in the thin remaining layer of fibre. Nothing could look more natural; this seems to be the ideal way to grow *C. aclandiae*.

The poles are misted each sunny morning, much more heavily in the



Cattleya aclandiae

Photography: G. Fuller

summer growing season and are generally dry by nightfall. Weak fertiliser is included three out of four waterings. They are hung high in the hothouse, about a metre from the ceiling but certainly the brightest place in the house and they are all thriving.

At this point I'm telling myself I'm an expert on growing *C. aclandiae* and it really does the soul good to grow something successfully.

I would hope to flower about 10 clones of *C. aclandiae* next summer.

There's quite a difference between clones, some with pseudobulbs as long as 10cm and others half that length. Leaves vary from long ones 9cm by 3cm, to the more common oval or almost round. They're a cute little plant with large interesting blooms and a favourite in my collection.

So, if you have a *Cattleya aclandiae* which is sulking on you, slap it onto a piece of cork bark or fern pole next spring and watch it go.

21 Blakes Road
Prebbleton
Canterbury

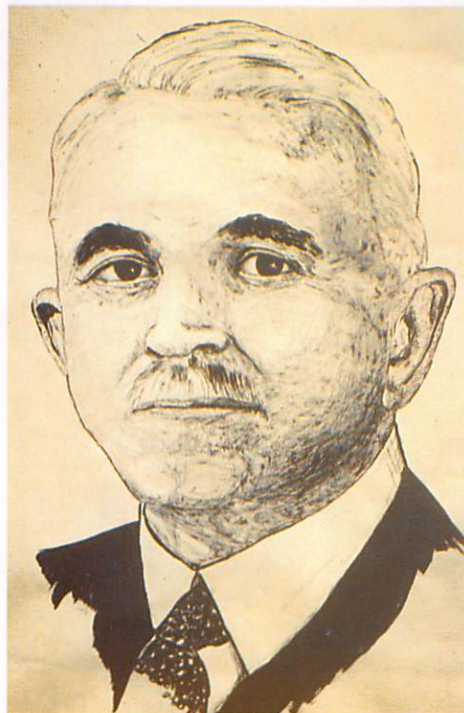
Creators of our Colourful Catts

Part 2

Don Herman

This is the second part of the abridged version of the first Geoffrey Laird Memorial Lecture.

NOTE: *Some of the photographs in this article are old and not up to modern standards of quality, but are included because of their historic or intrinsic interest.*



J. M. Black

J. M. Black, who also trained at Sanders bought out the remains of the Veitch Company and it became **Black and Flory**. A couple of major hybrids came out of this company. One of them is *C. Bow Bells*, which completely revolutionised the quality that you could expect from white cattleyas—truly a major step. There are those who feel that *C. Bow Bells* and *C. Joyce Hannington* are one and the same flower. A remake would have settled the question but unfortunately one of the parent plants



C. Bow Bells

involved was lost on a ship that was torpedoed during the second World War. The second cross that they made was *Lc. Derna*—which is behind such things as *Blc. Amberglow*, but *Lc. Derna* itself was a pretty nice flower, with great colour contrast and a significant parent of quality semi-yellows.

Lc. Derna





Walter Armacost



Ben Bracey

The next person is **Walter Armacost** who started his own company in 1908 and was joined by a man named Royston. Together they formed Armacost and Royston in 1911. They brought in a man named **Ben Bracey** in 1921. Bracey trained at Westonbirt under H. G. Alexander—one of the old school—and was instrumental in introducing the Knudson method of seed germination, making Armacost and Royston the first nursery to mass produce orchid seedlings. By 1928 they were sending out railroad cars full of orchids.

Bracey's most famous hybrid was Lc. Bonanza (Cavalese x Prospector). Another famous cross was Lc. Blue Boy (C. Ariel x Lc. Elegans).

In 1949 Ben Bracey left Armacost and Royston and started his own company. He was able to purchase pieces of fine plants from his earlier

Lc. Bonanza



customers, which gave him a good foundation stock. He named one of his hybrids, *Lc. Memoria Albert Heinecke*, after the husband of one of these customers. This is an interesting orchid, because its parents are *Lc. Grandee* and *Lc. S.J. Bracey* which was probably the major yellow with red lip to be developed after the second World War. Unfortunately, the line has a lot of crippling in it but it is very spectacular.



Lc. Mem. Albert Heinecke



Leo Holguin with California trout!

When Bracey left Armacost and Royston in 1949 **Leo Holguin** took over, and turned out many great hybrids in whites, Brasso whites, semi-albas, spring blooming lavenders (such as *Lc. Irene Holguin*, *Lc. J.A. Carbone*, etc.), summer purples, and some very good yellows and oranges from the *S/c. Helen Veliz* line of breeding. I always call him a "bread and butter" hybridiser because he always thought of the plant, its flower production, its growth habit and so forth. One of the great men of the orchid world, and no one ever made a better white than his *B/c. Ranger Six 'A.O.K.'* and one of his summer lavenders is *Lc. Summer Romance*. Until now we haven't had good lavenders in the summer.



B/c. Ranger Six 'A.O.K.'



Lc. Summer Romance

Clint McDade, who made his money from Pepsi Cola, became wrapped-up with orchids, and hired John Lines, who had been trained well by his father Oliver, (who trained at Westonbirt). The nursery they



Clint McDade (left), Oliver Lines, John Lines (right)

established was named Rivermont Orchids, and became a major contributor of fine orchids, such as *C. Bob Betts*, a top white. Of these the tetraploid forms were sensational, the triploid forms were throw-aways. They also made *Lc. Ann Folis* (green with a purple lip), *Jane Helton* (yellow), but one of the most significant things they did was to make a little white (*C. loddigesii* x *C. Eucharis*) which became very influential. They named it *C. Henrietta Japhet* and to florists all over the world little white cattleyas are known as 'Japhets'. Perhaps their

Lc. Amber Glow 'Mid Florida'



most beautiful cross was *Lc. Amberglow* (*Lc. Derna* x *Lc. Anne Walker*) which set new standards in yellow with red lips, and it is still very difficult to beat.

Another hybridiser, Frank Gamble, was very secretive and had all his hybridising notes destroyed after his death, but he made some very significant hybrids in the splash-petal types. For instance *Lc. Peggy Huffman* (*Lc. Princess Margaret* x *C. intermedia*) made in 1956, and most



Lc. Peggy Huffman

famous of all, *Lc. Colorama*, usually seen in the clone, *Lc. Colorama* 'The Clown', but with another fine clone also, 'Caprice'. *Colorama* created a whole new unique gene pool, because never before had one orchid been able to transmit so much of the lip markings to its progeny.

Lc. Colorama 'Caprice'



There have been others like Jones and Scully, Alberts and Merkle, Vacherot and Lecoufle, too many to name. Another plantsman is Mr Miyamoto in Hawaii, with his son Calvin. Mr Miyamoto is another good observer. He has produced much colour in his hybrids. Probably the

most famous coloured hybrids he has made are *Blc.* Waianae Sunset 'Pokai', *Blc.* Waikiki Sunset, *Lc.* Lisa Ann, and, taking *Lc.* Lisa Ann one generation further he got *Pot.* Summer Harvest.

Goodale Moir was one of the great teachers of the orchid world—one of the most fascinating men I ever met, he made you think, observe, and work at learning about what happens when you make a cross, which parents are dominant, which one should you use as the pod parent, etc.



Matsutoshi and Calvin Miyamoto



Pot Summer Harvest 'Christmas Joy'



Blc. William Stewart

Ernest Hetherington from the Stewart Company has made a great contribution to the cattleya field. I always think of him as a person who is interested in colour and new directions. Through the years he has made some outstanding cattleya hybrids. For instance he made some good hybrids from *Blc.* Xanthette, including *Blc.* William Stewart in 1973 (*Blc.* Xanthette 'Chartreuse' x *Blc.* Golden Slippers), and more recently *Blc.* Goldenzelle (*Blc.* Fortune x *C.* Horace). The shape of *C.* Horace is very evident here.



B/c. Goldenzelle (2 clones)

Miniature Cattleyas are very popular and the name first came from Ernest Hetherington, who made a series of plants some 15 years ago, including *S/c. Jewel Box*, *S/c. Paprika*.

Another name associated with min-catts is Frank Fordyce, a real dynamo! He is famous for his cross *S/c. Hazel Boyd* (*S/c. Jewel Box* x *S/c. California Apricot*), as well as many other fine plants.

S/c. Hazel Boyd



When I told my Dad I was going to go to New Zealand to speak he said to me "You'll love it. Of all the places in the world that I ever visited, I never met people that were friendlier, nicer or kinder." I agree with him and it has been our joy to be invited down here and to receive this honour from the Geoffrey Laird Trust. Thank you very much.

Merry Christmas

Do you enjoy articles with lots of illustrations?

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COLOUR FUND

12. JOHN BUCHANAN

(1818-1898)

Ian St. George

This Scots pattern designer arrived in Otago in 1852 and sent back to Kew what James Hooker described as the best collections of plants received from Australasia. He explored much of the interior, often in the company of Dr. Hector, and his *Sketch of the botany of Otago* was a major paper. The Hocken Library has a number of his diaries, and they give a vivid picture of the hardships of collecting: here are extracts from his account of a trip south from Dunedin one wet November in the early sixties . . .

27th Start and make Wallace's at Popotunoa. Had an accident at the Clutha Point. Horse startled, plunged forward and bruised my toe with its foot. Bled freely—dressed it at the Hotel and started without the boot on. Barometer falling fast.

Just reached the Kakiku when the storm broke—cold heavy rain and thunder—rained all night.

28th Foot not so bad as I thought—quantity of blood lost has prevented bad consequences. Can do nothing at any rate for the weather.

29th. . . Hopped about a little with a boot on cut away in the front.

30th Rained all night . . .

1st (December) . . . went to Waiwera Gorge.

2nd Went to I. Anderson's upper Station on the Wyndham. Heavy showers at night . . .

3rd Examined the Hills opposite the Wyndham Station. Rain in the afternoon . . .

4th Examined Wyndham hill at creek. Rain in afternoon . . .

5th Rain all day.

6th Went down to lower Station—Mrs Anderson. Rain at night . . .

7th Examined the district round lower Station—fine day . . .

9th Went down to capital hut on Waikaia River. Rode Mr Anderson's old horse Troy, as my own never would have got down—very bad swamps.

10th Hung up the saddle, sent the horse adrift and humped the swag myself as it is impossible for a horse to make the Harbour: The distance is said to be 4 miles—took 2 hours—may take 2½ hours.

11th Went up to Rocky Point and searched for fossil plants but failed to find any. My toe has got so bad had to give up—nail off and raw flesh.

12th Crossed over to North side. Made a collection of Pecopteris and amongst them

a few Toemopteris—visited and stopped with Mr Haldane.

13th Collected the whole at one place and intended to have got them over but came on heavy rain—crossed over myself to South side.

14th Went to South Head 5 miles where Dr. Hector got Toemopteris—found both this Fern and Pecopteris associated together—in fact they are always found together (showers all day). Got stuck up coming back by the tide arriving at the first creek at high water—had to wait 3 hours and then take the water up to the hips at dark—3 creeks to cross this way and carrying 1cwt of fossils.

15th Rain all day. Went up again to Rocky Point at low water where Dr. Hector got Pecopteris (without success) . . .

16th Raining in the morning—started for the N. Head—made out the whole formations to my own satisfaction and feel inclined to do no more here . . .

17th Employed the whole day getting boxes, sawdust, nails, etc., and packed 3 boxes of fossils for the Caledonia which sails this week. Perhaps may get another ready before she leaves. Heavy rain and showers during the day and sandflies very bad.

18th Packed another box for Caledonia. Rainy day—thunder storm.

19th Showery. Hail. Give up all idea of doing anything more at this time. Foot swelled—impossible to get on a boot. If a man can be got to take Anderson's horse back intend myself to go back to Dunedin by the Caledonia or Steamer if it should come in.

20th Confined to the house. Vessel may leave tonight.

21st, 22nd, 23rd Bar bound.

Plate. *Corybas rivularis*. Watercolour by John Buchanan, 1862. Reproduced courtesy of the Otago Early Settlers' Museum, Dunedin.



*Not banks of creek
 under shade Hematoceras (tulipa?)
 of trees, rather rare*

*North East Valley
 25th Sept. 1862*

Corybas rivularis

24th Bar bound. Rain every day more or less—foot looking bad, anxious to get to Dunedin. This is a very bad Harbour to trade with Dunedin by sailing craft. The Caledonia has now been a week waiting on a wind to get out while the wind outside would take her up in 12 hours, in this way a vessel requires a wind to get out that (is) a head wind (after) getting out.

25th Christmas—the Mills not at work but a silence prevails over the place—the Steamer is now due 3 weeks and there is not a drop of grog in the place.

Buchanan's major botanical work was in response to Sir George Grey's request that N.Z. grasses should be catalogued and evaluated for their fodder potential. The illustrations for *The indigenous grasses of New Zealand* (1877) were made by inking the plants and pressing them direct onto the lithographic stone, the detail to be filled in later.

He was prolific. Sketchbooks in Otago, Wellington and Auckland are full of beautiful natural history and topographical drawings. He was chief illustrator for the *Transactions of the New Zealand Institute*, and drew and/or engraved many of the lithographs for its first nineteen volumes—"JB del." appears on most. He was a superb artist—his *Milford Sound* is one of the masterpieces of New Zealand landscape painting.

One of his sketchbooks at the Alexander Turnbull Library contains copies of the WH Fitch drawings of N.Z. orchids; in the *Transactions* is a curious lithograph of a plant he collected near Picton, and called by him *Gastrodia hectori*—it is probably *Prasophyllum patens*; in one of the sketchbooks in Dunedin is a watercolour dated 25 November 1862 and labelled "wet banks of creek under shade of trees, North side, North East Valley. Nematoceras (?triloba)". It is *Corybas rivularis*.

45 Cargill Street
Dunedin

Thelymitra carnea

Beryl Goodger

Some fine examples of this species, photographed by Bob Goodger, appeared on the back cover of the September/October issue of 'Orchids in New Zealand'.

We had been to visit Betty and Royce Cullen in Katikati to see their orchids and proteas and when we left there, we decided to drive on up their road to see what lay beyond. This is one of the many no exit roads at the foot of the Kaimais, and being September we spied some *Pterostylis* on the side of the road. We turned and drove slowly down again, each watching our side of the road, till I yelled 'Stop!'. I had seen something but wasn't sure what it was. When we stepped out of the car, we found the verge was covered with *Thelymitra carnea* in bud, but because it was a dull day, none were open.

However, we were able to open some of them up and see the variety of shades, from cream through to a deep apricot.

We had previously seen only one or two plants, without flowers and had heard that they were considered fairly rare, but this scene belied that and proved that this was one of their favoured habitats. This must also have been a particularly good year because we have been back every year but we have never seen quite so many plants or flowers. They have much to contend with—being eaten or sprayed, and this year some have fallen foul of the road widening brigade. They did not suffer quite as badly though as the *T. aemula* (the first we found in the Bay of Plenty), a particularly beautiful stand of *T. longifolia*, and possibly the *Pterostylis cardiostigma* which were all in the same area.

T. carnea has a very narrow leaf and slender stem to about 10cm with only two or three buds, but the shape and colour of the flowers make it one of our most beautiful native orchids.

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Cym. Memoria Win Gibbs 'Manu' AD/OCNZ

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Photography: G. Fuller



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VIRUS PROBLEMS

*K. H. Patterson
Marlborough Orchid Society*

This subject is important but a bit depressing and rather emotional. It is very hard to get accurate information or advice but these notes are the result of readings and observations by several of our members.

Plants affected with virus will usually grow reasonably well and produce flowers but often their vigour is rather reduced and the flowers are sometimes deformed. Look carefully at the leaves. If you see irregular yellowish patches or streaks with the long axis in line with the ribs of the leaf that is very suspicious. The breeding of some cymbidiums gives an overall mottled effect and in others there is yellowish striping running the length of the leaf. These are normal varieties. Virus usually does not show in dark green leaves and so if plants are grown in extra shade and fed a high nitrogen diet the virus cannot be seen or suspected but when these apparently healthy plants are exposed to more light to induce flowering, flower shoots and signs of virus will appear. Young plants are best grown in extra shade with a high nitrogen feed and so masking the virus is inevitable and hopefully not a subterfuge by the nurseryman. Virus is incurable and that means exactly that. Do not believe people who claim to cure virus with Epsom Salts or anything else. A known or suspected virus plant should not be given away, or divided, but plant, pot and mix should be destroyed preferably by burning. Any plant under suspicion should be separated from your main collection.

The spread of virus in a collection can be insidious and suddenly appear among several plants and so we try to find out how it is spread. Several authorities state that there is no known insect vector (which means it is carried from one plant to another by an insect), but observations do suggest that scale, white fly, red

spider and aphids may be incriminated. It may be spread by leaves of an infected plant touching healthy leaves of an adjoining plant and while it is desirable that plants be separated sufficiently so that they do not touch, this is impossible in almost all collections. It can certainly be spread by re-using the pot and compost from an infected plant. When repotting, do so on old newspaper so all pieces of plant and compost can be wrapped up and burnt.

At all times when working among orchids all pots and instruments must be sterilised before using on another plant. When cutting flowers or trimming leaves, all cutting implements should be sterilised between each plant. If cymbidium spikes are harvested by snapping them, any sap getting on your hands can spread the disease. Wash hands frequently.

For sterilisation, the best chemical is sodium hypochlorite which is the active ingredient in many proprietary products, all bleaches (namely, Janola, Milton, White Magic, etc.), and also in hypochlorite swimming pool treatment powder. The action of hypochlorite diminishes very rapidly in sunlight and in the presence of organic matter, so it is unsuitable for dirty pots or orchid mix. Clean knives, scissors, pots, etc., before soaking in a strong solution. Also remember that hypochlorite is not kind to metals and will rust allegedly stainless tools. It must be freshly prepared at least once a day. An article in the Australian Orchid Review makes the statement that a one in four dilution of standard hypochlorite as bought will kill

cymbidium mosaic virus in a minute. Tools can be sterilised by flaming and while no accurate information is known to us, it would be necessary to heat the metal to quite a good heat. Dipping in meths and letting the meths burn off does not produce much heat. The meths, however, in itself would have some antiseptic action.

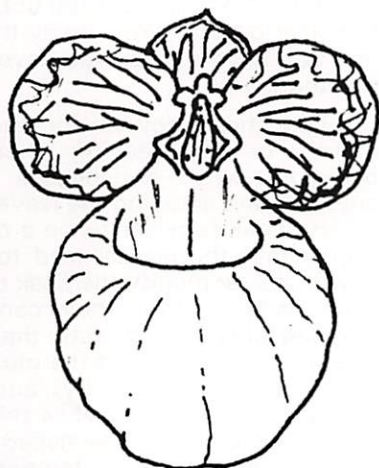
Our experience with virus testing with indicator plants has shown poor correlation. Our experience with antibody precipitation methods has overall been accurate but failed to give positive results in three highly suspicious cases when examined the first time, but was positive when re-examined later. It was suggested that specimens should be collected from green leaf near the base of the plant rather than the tip of the leaf. The electron microscope is the final arbiter of diagnosis but it is too expensive and is unavailable for general use.

Our Society hopes that propagators of mericlones are prepared to test the parent plant before making tissue cultures and certify this has been done. Then with good material, good orchid husbandry and culture, virus may be almost eliminated. It is likely that virus got into our collections mainly through plants from old collections of cymbidiums and also from cymbidium companions such as epidendrums and *Oncidium flexuosum*. These plants are nearly always virus infected. However, plants of these species imported from the wild are almost without exception, virus free but have picked up and spread virus under cultivation.

If anybody has information of true scientific standard to contradict, amend or help the above information, our Society would be pleased to be told.

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Is there Life after Deflasking?

Bob McCulloch

There certainly ought to be, although I can recall several cases where there wasn't. There are still two survivors from the very first flask I bought, back in 1979. They look about a year out of the flask, and might flower by the end of the decade if I'm lucky!

Since then things have got better, in fits and starts, seeming to vary for no other reason than to keep me baffled.

A run of successes could be followed by some dramatic failures where a whole flask of plants would turn up their toes overnight. I even got a flask of mericlones which developed leaves 5cm long, 2cm wide and 1cm thick, then stopped growing for two years. I was hoping they would turn out to be chance decaploids with flowers 25cm across that glowed in the dark, but they didn't want to grow, so in the end they were retired to the compost heap.

Conditions in my glasshouse have improved since then, and I can almost guarantee to get 90% survival rate, as long as it had some roots to begin with. That's as long as it's not Paphs. or Oncidiums, or Phallies.

For those who want to learn how to get lots of survivors from a flask, this is how I go about it—

Choose a flask with sturdy plants, not so big that they are trying to push the stopper off. The actual size isn't important as you can always leave the plants until they grow a bit bigger. Watch for mould on the surface of the agar, it can smother the plants completely. Also watch for dead or dying roots and leaves, this can indicate a build up of toxic substances in the agar. Some genera just proliferate in the flask and finish up with large masses of undifferentiated tissue instead of leaves and roots. And sometimes the agar mixture isn't quite right, and you get a lot of leaves with no roots, or a lot of roots with no leaves. Reject any flasks with those symptoms, or deflask them straight

away if mould or dying tissue appears once you have bought them. If you buy flasks by mail, sometimes the plants are all jumbled up from rough handling, and other times they seem to catch a chill in transit. Generally speaking I prefer flasks that I can examine before buying.

Having deflasked the plants, which is quite easy if you read the articles in the Journal, the next step is to get them over the shock without losing too many. These plastic soft drink bottles are ideal for providing a microclimate for seedlings just out of the flask.

Get rid of the contents somehow, then put the base in hot water until the glue loosens. You can then pull the black base off, and even use it for small plants. It's not so good for Cymbidiums or anything else with big roots, but there are plenty of plants that will fit nicely. Cut the bottom of the clear bit off, throw away the cap, and you have a nice little cover for a community pot.

I use these covers for the first month or so, leaving them off overnight when humidity is higher anyway, and spraying the leaves with a very weak fertiliser twice a day. It seems that the plants need to grow new roots, or modify the flask ones in some way, before they can start working again. At any rate, the plants like being sprayed, and the mix being kept just a little bit dry, and they develop new roots quicker this way for me. If you have deflasked in the summer as I usually do, temperatures are just right, but shade will have to be provided for the seedlings. As the plants start to grow again, the cover can be left off for longer periods to

accustom them to the lower humidity in the glasshouse. Watering can also be increased, and feeding through the roots by normal means can be started.

There are many opinions on feeding, varying from very dilute applications now and again, to putting a spoonful of dry feed in the pot as you deflask. All the ways seem to work O.K. for the people who use them. Until you are confident or experienced enough, I think it is better to underfeed.

There is always discussion about watering and feeding—I tried a new system some time ago where you kept the plants sopping wet all the time, and put an enormous amount of fertiliser in the mix. The plants gave a very positive response—they all died!

There is no doubt that plenty of water at the right time is the key to success, the only difficulty lies in knowing when the right time is. Different fertiliser strengths can be tried on a batch of mericlones, and the one which produces best growth under your conditions used all the time.

As the weather gets cooler, growth of the plants can be improved by use of a hot bed to keep the roots just that bit cosier. The young plants of most orchids grow better in slightly warmer conditions than the adult plants. Remember to reduce the heat at night if this doesn't happen naturally, otherwise the plant uses all the energy it made during the day to keep itself cool at night, and has nothing left to grow with. Or something like that. If you can't give them extra heat they will just grow a bit slower, and should be kept a bit drier.

As the weather warms up again in the spring, the plants can be repotted into individual pots if they are big enough, or into a bigger community pot, if needed. The bigger they get, the better they can handle adult conditions, and within another year

you should be putting them into the pots they will flower in if they are mericlones. Seedlings will take another year or so as they seem to take longer to get started. Then you can bring them to a meeting and tell everyone about your success!

*18 Davis Crescent
Upper Hutt*

WANTED?

A reward of questionable value is offered for information leading to the apprehension of the two desperadoes pictured.



Beauty and the Beast

Last seen in January 1987, inhabiting an orchid house in Taranaki, where Shirley Sidnam was able to take this photograph with a hidden pin-hole camera aimed through the drainage hole of an upturned pot.

The pair may have since separated but one is thought to be still wearing a disguise.

Victims are enticed into orchidaceous conversation, usually after 11.00 p.m. often with the aid of trick photography, and left drained and exhausted, even penniless (senseless).

Have a Smiling Christmas and a Tittering New Year.

Masdevallia caudata



This very attractive masdevallia is a cool to intermediate growing species from Colombia and Venezuela. It has large flowers almost 20cm long, and slight fragrant. The dorsal sepal is light yellow, spotted red, and with several red veins; tails are 5-7cm long and yellow; the lateral sepal is mauve purple, mottled white.

Grown by Ann Gale, Tauranga

Drawn by Bruce Irwin

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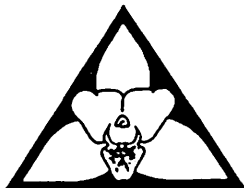
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- Lc. Fiery Fantasy x L. Cincorana 'Nagata'—deep red-yellow throat
- Sl. *gratrixiae* 'Rotors' HCC/AOS x Slc. Tangerine Jewel—reddish orange
- Sl. *Mariottiana* x L. *pumila* var *dayana*—orange red x pinky mauve
- C. Penny Kuroda 'Spot' x Bro. *sanguinea* 'Red'—crimson to blood red with spots
- Sl. Red Doll x C. *aclandiae* 'Suva'—multi colour
- Sl. Red Doll x Sl. *gratrixiae* 'Rotors' HCC/AOS—red
- Lc. Rojo x Slc. Jewel Box 'Scherezade'—superb deep red
- Slc. Naomi Kerns 'Fireball' AM/HOS x C. *ardentissima* 'Burma Ruby'—dusky reds
- Lc. Orange Gem 'Delight' x Slc. Brandywine 'Brandy Beauty'—red purple
- Lc. Kawai Starbright 'Vi' x Sl. *orpetti*—intense lavender yellow cluster
- L. *rupestris* x Enc. *vittilina*—rare, small pink flowers—miniature plants
- Sl. *orpetti*—intense pink to red
- Sl. Psyche x Slc. Brandywine 'Wise'—dark orange

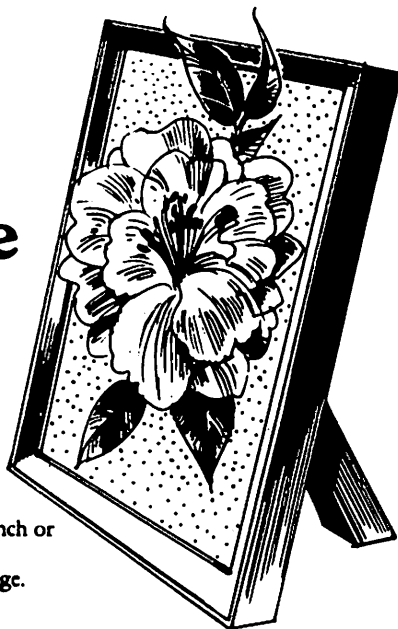
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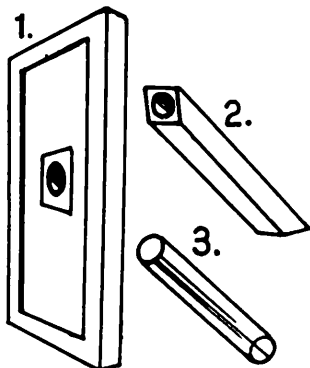
Frame a flower picture frame

Makes a lovely, inexpensive gift. The stand of the picture frame is slotted to hold a plastic phial of water. Simply place stem of selected flower in phial and hey presto a delightfully attractive, natural, eye-catching display is created! Frames come in 3 colours — GOLD, SILVER, BLACK. Black velvet backing accentuates the beauty of the bloom. Frames available from your local society's branch or direct from PORTA SCREENS LTD. PRICE \$22 including GST; packaging; postage.



HOW TO ASSEMBLE:

1. Picture frame.
 2. Slip plastic phial through hole in front of picture frame into
 3. slotted stand which fits into holder attached to back of frame.
- All parts are now secured and ready for use.



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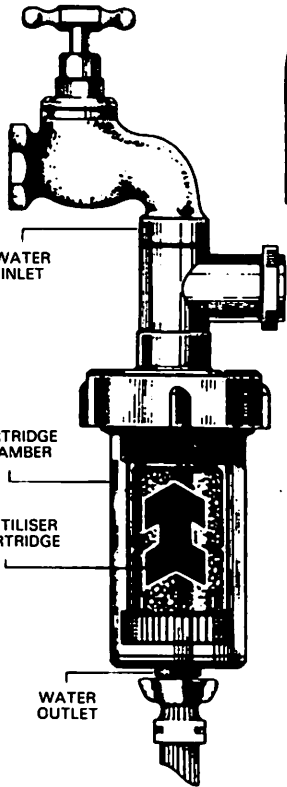
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Two analysis of fertiliser available: "Quick Green" corresponds to the U.S. recommendation for orchids of 30-10-10 or N.Z. 30-5-8.

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

Fert-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 fertiliser contain essential trace elements.

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PORTRAITS OF NEW ZEALAND ORCHID SPECIES



▲ *Thelymitra longifolia*

Photography: Bob Goodger at Lunds Road, Bay of Plenty

A fine clump of what is probably the commonest and most wide spread *Thelymitra* species in New Zealand. It is common on open ground, including roadsides.

This species has a slightly fleshy, wide, strap-shaped, ridge leaf, and the flower stalk may be 50cm tall.

It has a fairly long spring and summer flowering season. Occasionally pink flowered forms occur.