

# *Orchids*

*IN NEW ZEALAND*



Volume 14—No. 4  
July/August 1988

# *The Shally House*

TAUPO

## Catalogue 1988

Copies were sent out to all societies in April, plus all those on my mailing lists.

Ask and you too will receive one. Tell me if you would also like to have your name added to the mailing list.

There is a bonus with the current list. I have begun a newsletter about phalaenopsis and growing them. It is a feature I intend to continue on an irregular regular basis.

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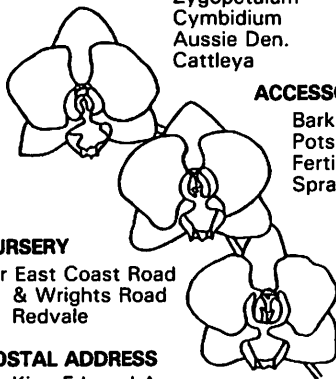
## AUCKLAND'S EXOTIC ORCHIDS

### FLOWERING

Phalaenopsis  
Odontoglossum  
Zygopetalum  
Cymbidium  
Aussie Den.  
Cattleya

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## CONZED NEWS

At 1 pm on Saturday 18th June, delegates of societies and the executive of CONZED met for the CONZED AGM, as part of a weekend which included two formal Executive meetings, an informal breakfast meeting for society Presidents, and social gatherings which gave opportunities for chatting with old and new friends. Some representatives were on deck on Saturday from 7.30 am till late in the evening, with only a few moments break, then at another meeting at 7.30 am next morning — certainly total absorption in planning and co-ordinating orchid society activities. There was also an admirable display by the local and other nearby societies to visit.

In the manner of AGM's, reports from the main officers were presented and discussed, often at some length. It was unanimously agreed that the Capitation Fee be raised to \$2.50 per person from 1 April 1989.

The following officers were elected:

### **PATRON**

Governor General His Excellency  
Sir Paul Reeves

### **PRESIDENT**

Mr Andrew Easton

### **VICE PRESIDENTS**

Mr Syd Wray

Professor Dennis Bonham

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Mr Peter Anderson

Mr Harold Bayram

Mr Ken Christie

Mr Roy Clareburt

Mrs Judy Coburn

Mrs Patricia Elms

Mrs Edna Newton

### **REGISTRAR OF JUDGING**

Mr Ron Roy

Treasurer and Secretary, will be as for last year:

**SECRETARY** — Mrs Jane Foster Easton

**TREASURER** — Mr Peter Anderson

The AGM next year will be held at Blenheim.

Other events to look forward to are visits from two more overseas speakers, aided by the Speakers Fund. Clive Halls of Mt Beenak Orchids, Australia, will speak about Odontoglossums at several North Island societies during July, and in September Bob Burkey of La Costa Orchids, Encinitas, California, and Editor of the Orchid Advocate, will speak at a couple of special occasions while visiting our country.

With three visiting speakers this year, almost every society which has contributed to the fund will have received a visit.

Thanks come from all participants to the Poverty Bay East Coast Orchid Society for their warm hospitality, and smooth organisation during the AGM weekend.

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### **Editors Note:**

We have been instructed by the Conzed Executive to accept no further unsigned contributions. This includes articles under a *nom de plume*. We thank all those who in the past have contributed in this way, and we hope they will see their way to providing further material for us in the future.



Plan for **NEXT** years  
Shows to celebrate  
100 years of  
Cymbidium hybridising

(*C. eburneo-lowianum*  
Veitch 1889)

# TO ALL OUR READERS

We are anxious to improve the level of support for the magazine.

Please help us by filling in the Questionnaire in this issue.

All you need to do is tick the appropriate boxes and return by Freepost to P.O. Box 390, Rotorua, by the 30th September 1988. You may receive another copy at your next orchid society meeting. **ONLY FILL IN ONE COPY.**

If you put the name of your local orchid society in the top corner, your reply will be entered in a draw for an orchid plant for your society raffle. We don't need to know your name and address.

Thank you very much for your help and good orchid growing.

*The Editors*

## CONZED INCORPORATED

### 14th ANNUAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I am pleased to present my first annual report to the Orchid Council of New Zealand, marking the completion of our 14th year of existence. The past year has been exciting and I believe marks a significant change in direction for your Orchid Council. For the past year we have faced up to problem areas like communication within the New Zealand orchid fraternity, a declining readership of 'Orchids in New Zealand' and expressed feelings that CONZED affiliation conferred little benefit on affiliated societies. Members of the present executive have worked diligently to tie the various societies closer to CONZED and their efforts are bearing fruit. Remember that this is a two way process and council is eager for frequent and increasing input from all its affiliates.

The 13th World Orchid Conference is one year closer and finally we are seeing signs that determination and enthusiasm integral to a successful WOC is appearing in orchid societies the length and breadth of New Zealand. Competitions to design displays for 1990, support of the sales of sundries to benefit the 13th WOC and just a greatly increased level of awareness of what 1990 means to orchid growing in New Zealand are healthy signs which encourage us all.

I am happy to report that we currently have 45 affiliated societies with the re-affiliation of the Gore Orchid Society and our newest affiliate the Orchid Nurseries Association of New Zealand. It is particularly pleasing to note the strong support of some of our smaller South Island affiliates and while they may not be able to afford to send a delegate to the AGM we hope the clarified nomination procedures will enable them to make better use of the proxy system.

To clarify and support the new nomination system where candidates may not be nominated from the floor of the AGM, let me assure societies that this was the unanimous decision of the present executive. At past AGM's delegates were often unaware of the full field of candidates until the

afternoon of the meeting, biographies were often sketchy or non-existent and proxies could only be vested in the delegates in the hope that their vote on the day might correspond with the wishes of the granting society. This year the full slate of candidates and their biographies have been circulated together with the remits and the executive is hopeful that a more considered approach to elections at this year's AGM will result.

As a result of my pre-election promise to speak to all affiliated societies I have so far visited 12 since June 1987 and have confirmed engagements for another 14 over the coming six months. Tentatively I plan a major visit to the South Island in early 1989 when it is hoped to meet and speak to some of our more far-flung orchid friends. Every society visited has been friendly and welcoming. Where any comment about CONZED is made it is constructive and from my viewpoint greatly appreciated.

#### FINANCE

We have been particularly fortunate to secure the services of Peter Anderson as CONZED Treasurer. Peter is both an accomplished orchid grower and a competent money manager. His financial reports

have been praised by the executive for their clarity and completeness. The loose threads of some of CONZED's affairs that carried past the last AGM have been tidied up by Peter and the financial juggling which many societies and businesses have to indulge in nowadays holds no fears for him. The Treasurer has diligently sought to get the best returns on CONZED's funds.

Although I am no stranger to tight financial situations, it is always a little embarrassing to report that Council continues in a precarious financial position. Any significant reduction in capitation levels and substantive income could only have a restrictive effect on our activities. That is why your support and the success of the 13th WOC is critical to our orchid future. Dispersment of profits from 1990 would put the Council on a sound financial footing for the rest of this century and better equip it to capitalise on the boom in orchid growing which inevitably follows a world orchid conference.

Increased travelling and administrative expenses are a fact of life and we should not seek simplistic solutions to our financial constraints. Undoubtedly if CONZED had no executive members from the South Island we could save several thousand dollars a year in expenses but would this strengthen orchid growing in New Zealand? Could CONZED then accept capitation fees from over 800 members in the South Island affiliated societies? I think we all know the answer to these questions.

If I might make a comment to societies concerned about increasing subscription rates. Please give serious consideration to including 'Orchids New Zealand' in your annual membership dues. Although this might mean subscription levels in the \$25 range, is \$25 really such a great amount for six colourful issues of the CONZED magazine and the fellowship of monthly meetings plus an occasional bus trip and events like annual orchid shows and visiting international speakers? My cursory research shows that many other specialist societies unashamedly charge much higher memberships yet offer less than we do. Equally important is for members to work together in various society projects including fundraising for it is in this close association that friendships strengthen and many of the intangible benefits of orchid society membership are enjoyed to their fullest.

## MAGAZINE

This past year has been worrying for the Editors, the Magazine Sub-Committee and the executive. The magazine has been running at a loss and subscriptions declining. While we are all well aware of certain perennial problem areas it was decided to seek the current opinion on 'Orchids in New Zealand' through the Presidents of affiliated societies. The basis for this approach was a recommendation for marketing 'Orchids in New Zealand' prepared at no cost to Council by Bill Davie, husband of Brigitta Davie of orchid fertiliser fame. It was mailed in February and 17 replies received. The executive is very grateful to those 17 presidents who took the time to discuss the magazine with their membership. The five most frequent comments in order of mention were;

- 1) The need for more simple, well-written articles on growing orchids.
- 2) The magazine is often late
- 3) There should be a question box similar to the AOS's
- 4) Executive should investigate selling the magazine in bookshops.
- 5) More society news should be published.

In all 36 distinct comments/suggestions were made, many of them worthy of action and some already implemented. There is a new column to appear in the next issue of the magazine specifying what to do in your greenhouse for the two months ahead. A question box is also set to appear and an article on preparing cymbidiums year by year for 1990 will be in the issue following. There is a remit concerning quarterly publication of 'Orchids in New Zealand' as an aid to on time appearance before the AGM so undoubtedly this topic will get a good airing. The editors' response to suggestions that more society news be published will likely be — send us more society news! A questionnaire is being finalised at present and will be mailed out to all responding societies and in the next issue of 'Orchids in New Zealand'.

We owe a continuing debt to our editors Nick and Liz Miller who produce a quality magazine voluntarily in addition to living busy lives. When the magazine is late it is at most only partially the editors' fault. Indeed mindful of our tight financial situation, I know they sometimes hold the magazine past deadlines to secure a couple more advertisements.

Our advertisers too, are a loyal lot. Several comments were made that the magazine advertising was boring — too few advertisers actually list plants by name. Bill Davie has offered to run a short seminar to improve advertising effectiveness for our advertisers and this will be scheduled shortly if there is enough interest. Please support our advertisers as they are vital to the magazine's survival.

Societies should remember that donations to the Colour Fund are always welcome and greatly improve your magazine. Some of the smaller societies like Taupo are particularly generous in this regard. All Colour Fund donations are earmarked for that purpose by our eagle-eyed Treasurer and are never lost in general funds.

Council recently decided on trying to boost magazine subscriptions with a \$10 introductory offer for first time subscribers. It is to be promoted through commercial orchid growers and the company responsible for gaining us most new subscribers gets some free advertising. We are using our print overruns to supply these new subs so even though the \$10 is below break even it generates revenue we would not otherwise receive and rescues our back issues secretary, Glenn Anderson from having to add another room to her house. Syd Wray is to be thanked for getting this idea off to a very successful start.

Finally, we are presently in a transition from our present distribution system through the Godwins to a new distributor, Trevor Nicholls and his band of volunteers from the Taupo Orchid Society. When the Godwins found they could no longer handle both the bulk mailings and individual subscriptions, Council formed a subcommittee to find alternative distributors. Midway through getting quotes from three potential distributors we were delighted to be approached by Trevor Nicholls with an offer to distribute the magazine on a voluntary basis. Orchid growers in New Zealand owe a substantial debt of gratitude to Lin and Bev Godwin who have handled distribution of 'Orchids in New Zealand' for many years. Distribution is not a high profile Council activity, yet it is essential to the success of the magazine and communication with orchid enthusiasts both within New Zealand and overseas.

### JUDGING

I had hoped to be able to report greater progress in this area of Council activity but our Registrar, Ron Roy has not enjoyed good health for much of the past year and it is my understanding that he will be retiring as Registrar prior to the AGM. Ron has worked very hard in the judging area and it is to be hoped his exertions have not made his health worse.

*(Ron has been reappointed to the Registrar's position. Editors.)*

We hope the redrafted standards and upgraded by-laws will soon culminate in a new judging handbook. You will note the proposal drafted by Ken Christie which, if approved, will ensure that the Registrar is an ex-officio member of Council. This is essential if awards and other judging functions are to be clearly understood by executive and quickly approved.

After no national Judging Seminar in 1987 it is encouraging to report the first 1988 seminar in Rotorua in the last weekend of April and another planned for either late August or mid October of this year. Council judges face a mammoth task in 1990 and accelerated training efforts are directed toward the development of a hard core of experienced judges to lead the many judging teams that will be needed at the World Orchid Conference.

### SPEAKERS FUND

1988 marks the year the Council Speakers' Fund got off the ground. The first visiting speaker supported by the fund was Wally Upton of Sydney, a noted hybridizer of Australian native Dendrobiums and other genera. Wally and his lovely wife Jill gave programmes in Christchurch, Dunedin, Wellington, Gisborne, Tauranga, Whangarei and Auckland. At all venues, adjacent societies were invited to participate and large audiences attended each meeting. We are all grateful to the Uptons for their generous sharing of time and knowledge and to the affiliated societies whose generosity in supporting the Speakers' Fund have made it all possible.

Our second Speaker's Fund visitor is Clive Halls of Mt Beenak Orchids, Victoria, who will be presenting a number of talks on the *Odontoglossum*

Alliance early in July. Clive Halls is the last apprentice trained by the late David Sander and is a very knowledgeable young orchid grower, regarded as one of the most skilful cultivators of the *Odontoglossum* Alliance in Australia. Council has agreed that supporters of the Speakers' Fund will get first call on these visiting speakers so the "interest" on society loans to the Speakers' Fund comes in a very tangible form! While it is too soon to be able to confirm details yet, we may have a third speaker, from the United States, able to visit affiliated societies in October this year.

### LIAISON

Unfortunately we have still not finalised arrangements for a joint publication of the N.Z. and Australian awards but progress is being made. Both your President and Vice President Syd Wray have been invited to speak to the two Australian conferences this spring and will certainly be doing an intensive promotion for the 13th WOC. Additionally your President has been invited to speak to the South African Orchid Council's conference in September.

Council has had a very productive year in the South Island. We loaned funds to the Orchid Society of Southland to assist in the staging of a most successful South Island Seminar last October, with executive members Ron Roy, Patricia Elms and your President attending. Russ Wilkins, one of our Regional Judging Chairmen, also attended, and both Patricia Elms and Norm Porter of Porter Orchids gave programmes at various societies en route. We all enjoyed typical Southland hospitality and congratulate Judy Lowe, John McDonald and their hardworking local members on an imaginative and well-executed event.

Special thanks too to Judy Coburn who has diligently worked to advance orchid growing in the South and Syd Wray whose recent lecture tour has resulted in numerous new subscribers for 'Orchids in New Zealand' and a better appreciation of the importance that Council places on our South Island growers.

### SUMMARY

I would like to make some comment about the present executive and candidates for election partially to record my thanks for their efforts and so that it may help you in deciding who to support at the AGM and for those societies who may wish to instruct their proxy holders.

Professor Dennis Bonham is one of the two current Vice Presidents. He has been a loyal and hard working member of Council with particular responsibility for WOC liaison. Dennis and his wife Nancie, have hosted most Council meetings this past year and we have been well fed and accommodated. In a busy life he always seems to have time for orchid activities. Professor Bonham is standing again for Vice President and/or Executive.

Syd Wray is the second current Vice President. Syd is standing for President and/or Vice President at the coming AGM. Syd is well known for his activities with the raffle and also as Chairman of a

Judging panel. He works diligently for Council and recently completed a tour around the South Island. Syd is also a member of the magazine sub-committee.

Harold Bayram has been re-nominated for executive. He has worked with Judy Coburn in producing a very successful Council newsletter that helps keep affiliated societies up with the play. Harold travels long distances by road, to attend our meetings and is currently in the final stages of planning this year's AGM in Gisborne.

Roy Clareburt is also re-nominated for executive. Roy is one of the most experienced members on the Council and integrates his activities with heavy commitments to the 13th WOC and the North Shore Orchid Society. I suspected Roy was a bit burned out after his exertions for the first New Zealand Conference in 1980 and several North Shore seminars. Of late he has taken on a new lease of orchid life and amazes us all with his prodigious capacity for work.

Ken Christie, currently a member of the executive is this year nominated for Vice President and/or Executive. Ken has been a real asset to the Council in his first year. He has straightened out inconsistencies in the by-laws and removed confusion over delegate entitlements and other ticklish areas. From the Wellington region, Ken gives a geographical balance to the Council's structure and clear interpretations of the constitution at our meetings.

Judy Coburn is the only Mainlander nominated for the new Council. Judy is a current member of executive, working with Harold Bayram on the newsletter. She has helped cull the slide programmes and reminds us constantly in executive meetings of South Island concerns and needs. Next year's AGM will be in Judy's region and it could well be her responsibility to make the necessary arrangements.

Patricia Elms, another current executive member is this year nominated for either Vice President or Executive. Trish is a loyal Council stalwart in the Manawatu/Wanganui region and travelled widely in the South Island last spring. Since she was elected President of the Wanganui Orchid Club it has become one of the most active of the affiliated societies, enthusiastically preparing for their involvement in the 13th WOC and also planning a major spring show this year to mark the 21st birthday of the Club.

Edna Newton is currently a member of Council and this year is nominated for Vice President and/or Executive. Edna has worked steadily on the Speakers' Fund and this year can take a bow with its successful launching. She is always eager to participate in any Council projects and adds an interesting dimension to Council meetings.

Peter Anderson, our present Treasurer is the only "new" face nominated for Executive. I guess Peter got tired of coming to Council meetings and not getting a vote! Seriously, he has been a very efficient Treasurer and if elected to executive would be a thrifty choice as he won't cost any more in

travelling expenses. Peter is active in the Rotorua Orchid Society and together with his wife, has given many talks to societies on the perils of growing mixed genera in a hobby greenhouse.

Ron Maunder has been nominated for President and/or Vice President or Executive and scarcely needs any introduction. Ron is not currently holding any executive position having resigned half way through the 1987 term of office but apparently now wishes to return to the Council. He is currently organising the first 1988 National Judging Seminar on behalf of Ron Roy.

I must say I am a little disappointed to be opposed by two candidates for President this year. A quick perusal of the records show that the incumbent has not been challenged in the previous fourteen years of CONZED's history. When I made a special point of seeking only a two year term last June, I hoped I might have been freed from the nuisance of another election this year. Had the present Council been lazy or unproductive, I would understand the opposition but I believe we have worked hard and successfully on your behalf. But I do believe societies are offered a clear choice this year — do they wish Council to proceed in its present direction or do they seek a return to the divided Councils of yesteryear. As President I have taken no refund of expenses and as a result thank the customers of Geyserland Orchids who have indirectly bolstered the finances of Council.

I am especially grateful to the Wanganui Orchid Club who were the first affiliated society to renominate me for President. For the nominations from the other societies that followed — the CSA, Golden Coast, Hawkes Bay, Marlborough, NZOS and Wairoa, many thanks for your encouragement and confidence in me.

I wish also to record Council's appreciation of Mrs Beryl Goodger of Tauranga for her continuing work with the slide programmes. Des Leahy has kindly assisted as Minutes Secretary at all but one of the executive meetings this past year. His work has been, as usual, meticulous. Finally our Secretary and my new wife Jane has worked very hard on Council affairs especially since our marriage. She may yet make me seem like a reasonable correspondent. It has been a busy and challenging year for me as President of Council. Jane and I have made many new friends in the New Zealand orchid world and gained a new appreciation for the talents and efforts of those you elect to Council.

Thank you for your friendship and support.

*Andy Easton  
President*





# THE THIRD NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL JUDGING SEMINAR

*N.C. Miller*

This two day event was held in Rotorua recently. Unfortunately the winter arrived ahead of schedule, and the venue was one of the coldest halls I have ever been in. Some of the participants were so frozen that their teeth were, quite literally, chattering! The ordeals of being an orchid judge . . .

Fortunately the talks and discussion made up for environmental shortcomings. First off was Andy Easton, who told us what to expect when judging the World Orchid Conference show in 1990. Some 500—600 judges are expected, belonging to a wide variety of judging systems and speaking a range of languages, which will call for considerable tact and diplomacy. A trial run of the judging will be carried out at the Waikato Spring Show in 1989. Andy thanked everyone present for their 'labours of love' on behalf of orchids.

Norm Porter discussed a wide range of early cymbidiums, mostly descended from *Cym. Peter Pan*. Undoubtedly some much better hybrids are now flowering in autumn, although to this writer's eyes many of them still appear rather muddy in colour.

Assid Corban discussed the judging of complex hybrid paphiopedilums. Here the emphasis is on a round, concave flower, that should glisten and shine. It is most important that they have a good length of flower stem. These tend to be flowers that one either likes very much or not at all, but they certainly have 'character'.

Andy Easton then discussed the design and judging of displays. This is an area of judging that tends to get overlooked in New Zealand. He stressed various practical aspects of staging and warned us (is this the right word?) that about 25% of the displays in 1990 will be 'non-traditional.'

Ron Roy discussed the judging of white, pink or candy-striped phalaenopsis, laying particular emphasis on the species in their background.

Syd Wray took the judging of *Oncidinae* intergenerics as his topic. He stressed that it was important not to judge them as though they were *Odontoglossums*. The influence of the various genera present in these hybrids is also very significant.

The next speaker was Ron Maunder, speaking about *crispum*-type *Odontoglossums*. He showed us slides of a number of flowers, highlighting their faults and good points. An interesting comment was that it is a mistake to let these plants get too big. If this happens they can produce so many flowers that floral quality suffers.

The second day opened with a newcomer to the judging scene, Barry Fraser. His topic was the judging of primary or novelty hybrid paphiopedilums. He made the point that to judge the hybrids you must first know the species well — both good and bad forms. The Awards Quarterly is probably the best reference point for this. A number of hybrids were then shown and discussed, particularly the polyfloral types.

Ron Roy then spoke about nomenclature, a matter that is very poorly handled in New Zealand, even by those who should know better. According to Ron, of the numerous plants on display in the adjacent hall, more were wrongly labelled than right! The AOS handbook on Nomenclature should be used much more frequently!

Another newcomer, Glenn Anderson, discussed the merits and bad features of a number of *cattleya* flowers. The derivation of each plant was highlighted.

## NEMATODES (EELWORMS) OF ORCHIDS

She mentioned the usefulness of Sander's Lists in tracing the ancestry of our plants. Glenn then distributed a written test which had most of us scratching our heads. We hope to reprint this in 'Orchids in New Zealand' to give our readers something to think about.

Jim James spoke on the judging of miniature cattleyas. Again, the genera and species in the breeding are of prime importance, and the limitations of the parents of a hybrid must be realised. As Jim said "our job in judging flowers is judging beauty." Because mini-catts are small we expect stronger, clearer, more interesting colour patterns in them.

The final speaker was Russell Hutton, who spoke on the judging of orchid species. He made the point that many species are not worthy of Merit Awards, but should be awarded on cultural grounds instead. However some species, particularly those that have been line-bred, are well worthy of award judging. The judges, however, must know their species. Russell then went through a selection of species, often with several representatives of each, discussing their good and bad features.

In addition to the various talks, several practice judgments were carried out, using a very fine array of species and hybrids. Masdevallias and cattleyas were to the forefront, but most major genera were represented. Considering the time of year I was surprised that there were so few Vandaceous orchids, but these seem to be less popular these days. Species orchids, often in very good forms, were strongly represented — a pleasing sign.

Altogether a very successful weekend, with a first-rate buffet dinner on the Saturday night. The next such seminar will be held later in the year. Why not join one of the judging systems and see for yourself.

*Te Akau Road  
R.D. 4  
Rotorua*

Plant parasitic nematodes affecting orchid plants may be of some concern to orchid growers in New Zealand. Nematodes may infect the leaves of orchids causing long black streaks in the leaf (*Cattleya*, *Cymbidium* and *Odontoglossum*). If nematodes attack the roots or pseudobulb, the symptoms exhibited are of unthrifty plants where the roots, pseudobulbs and bulbs show black necrotic lesions and rotting. The plants show poor growth, yellowing of outer leaves and reduction in flowering. (*Cymbidium*, *Paphiopedilum*, *Cattleya*.) In New Zealand, as far as I know, only the foliar nematode has been recorded on *Cymbidium*, causing long black streaks in the leaf.

I would be interested, and the results could be of interest to orchid growers, to carry out a survey of orchids in New Zealand for plant parasitic nematodes.

I would appreciate receiving from orchid growers (hobbyists and commercial) samples of leaves showing long black streaks and samples of roots, pseudobulbs or bulbs showing black necrotic lesions.

For foliar samples, just wrap a leaf or two in newspaper. For bulb and root samples, wash carefully or shake off potting medium and wrap in newspaper. Place the wrapped samples into a plastic bag and wrap and post to the address below.

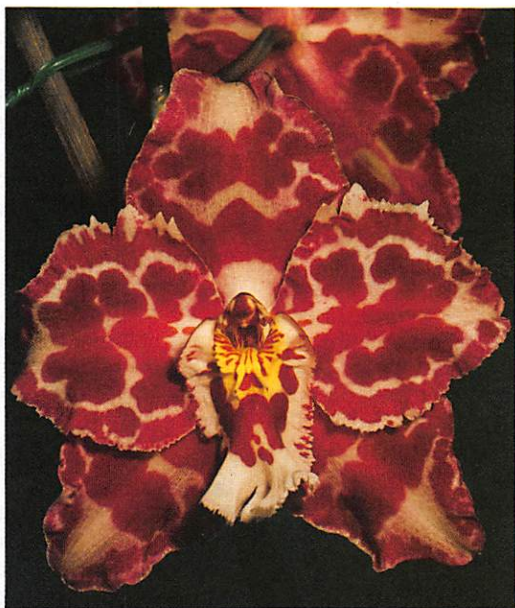
Please enclose a note stating the botanical name or common name of the orchid and your name and address so that I can reply to you. Please send samples before end of September 1988.

Even if you know you have nematodes and have had them identified before, please send me another sample so that I can make a useful record list.

Your co-operation would be appreciated.

*Dr G. S. Grandison  
Entomology Division  
D. S. I. R.  
Private Bag, AUCKLAND*

# Orchid of the Year for 1987



## ***Odontioda* Saint Clement 'Lacey' AM/OCNZ**

( *Odm.* Crutordo x *Oda.* Elpheon)

GROWER: Mr A. P. Locke, Arohena, R.D. 7, Te Awamutu

Intergeneric hybrids within the odontoglossum alliance have become popular over the last 50 years and there is quite an upsurge of interest at the present time. By using warm or cool growing species their temperature range has been extended greatly and there are now attractive plants that will suit any hobbyist's growing conditions.

*Odontioda* Saint Clement is a comparatively recent hybrid that has a considerable amount of the cool growing *Odontoglossum crispum* in it's background and it's full flower and great size are a reflection of this breeding. This cultivar 'Lacey' has been grown to perfection by Mr Locke and easily matches in size and flower count overseas cultivars that have received awards at the same level.

A well grown plant, 1 inflorescence carrying 13 fully open flowers well displayed. Natural spread of flowers 95 mm.

# Cogito's Diary

*Bill Fransen*

## WINDING DOWN

"Winding down" seems to be an apt description of when in early March we stop feeding our soft cane dendrobiums, followed in May by most other genera. Soft canes originate mostly from Burma and the foothills of the Sikkim Himalayas. They need warm, moist summers and bright, cool and dry winters. They flower in later winter and early spring, depending on the degree of warmth that they are exposed to. They will receive hardly any water between Anzac day and springtime.

The side wall of my cool greenhouse was re-fitted after having had shadecloth only on it all summer. Being a lean-to, the East side of the house has an eight foot high block wall. The framework rises two feet above that and is open in summer (shadecloth covered) and closed-in in winter. The roof slopes towards the West and has permanently fitted twin-wall polycarbonate sheets enclosing it. The refitted top-light and the West Wall are also made of twin-wall. The shadecloth was replaced (on the outside) as I don't want the flowering cymbidiums to be exposed to too much light. Bright light causes most whites to acquire a pink flush, and most greens to turn yellow(ish). Most yellows, pinks, and reds can handle higher light levels and are therefore placed in the brighter spots.

Having described how the greenhouse is situated does not mean that I am advocating this state of affairs. It just means that it is the way it had to be, as there was simply no other site on our town section. I am sure that we all have to make the best of prevailing conditions from time to time. A little thought and imagination will see us through.

## THE WARM ROOM

In March I started moving my warm growing plants from the cool house back into the warm room. The latter is situated in the NE corner of the garage. It measures 12 x 9 ft and has four windows and two doors. The walls and ceiling are well insulated to conserve heat. I removed a section of the roof and replaced it with transparent corrugated sheets which have two underlying sheets of plastic fitted for insulation.

Plastic sheets are also fitted on the inside and clear of the windows and doors. In April, the outside of the windows had twin-wall fitted to them for extra insulation. The room is heated by a small thermostatically controlled fan heater which sits on the floor and is tilted downward. This way none of the plants are exposed to the direct stream of dry, warm air. On one of the benches is a small electric fan which is pointed into the middle of the room. Once the doors stay closed this fan operates day and night.

During the month of April the temperature most days is still high enough for the East facing door to be open from 10 am to 4 pm. The sky-light and windows let in varying amounts of light, so that there are still areas of high shade which enable me to grow a few paphs, phallies, de-flasked and other shade-loving plants. The brighter areas are occupied by Vandas, Cattas, hard cane dendrobiums, and various other warm growers.

Not all plants can be given optimum light and have to survive in what they get. I sometimes change their position when it looks as if they may do better with some less or more light.

Early morning damping down is done by splashing rainwater on the concrete floor and this is sometimes repeated at night. Rainwater is collected in a drum from a nearby shed roof and is also used for watering the plants. During April the heater comes on for short periods only in cold nights. It is set to switch on at approx. 16°C and off at approx. 21°C. The constantly operating small fan keeps fungal problems at bay.

Pest problems also rarely occur, but sometimes an insecticide and a fungicide are used, just to make sure and to stay ahead of any nasties. The other day I hunted down a life-sized snail which left notice of its presence by consuming a particularly valued young plant. Some slug pellets were duly placed around but luckily that snail was the only one.

## THE COOL HOUSE

After enclosing the cool house for the winter I set out to move all the cymbidium plants back indoors. They spent the summer outside under 50% shade and were sitting on a framework 60 cm above ground level on wire mesh.

As there were some weeds and ferns growing in the gravel under the staging, it was decided to also move all the plants which remained in the house during summer. After cleaning up, pot by pot, they were all grouped according to kind and size. Starting from the far end and gradually working towards the door the tiered staging was tipped up, cleaned out underneath, and re-loaded with plants. In most cases they were placed closer than ideal pot-width apart as I (rightly) anticipated that space would run out before plants.

The lower stages are only 15 cm above the floor and the top stages 75 cm. Small and medium size cymbidiums occupy the shadier parts. Dendrobiums hang from the roof and some go on the brighter spots on the staging as do the cool Cattis. Inevitably any pendulous cymbidiums that are going to flower go on the top stages where they can droop to their heart's content on two sides (three if placed at one end). There are also several vertical frames of reinforcing mesh hanging from the roof near the West wall. They have a number of one year out of flask cattleya alliance plants in 80 mm basket pots hanging from them. These have done very well but need watering almost daily, in warm conditions. They were planted in basket pots because I tend to over-water, which is fatal for Cattis in closed pots. I now plant most water sensitive plants in basket pots or wooden slatted baskets

and don't encounter mushy root masses as often as I used to.

Most of the warm growing Cattis were transferred to the warm room. All cattleya alliance plants with sophrontis or other cool growing ancestry will stay in the cool house as long as they show no distress.

## REDUCING HEAT LOSS

Many intermediate temperature plants will survive the winter if they are kept on the dry side and the heat loss from the cool house is kept to the absolute minimum. Warmth radiated into the house on nice sunny days can significantly extend the number of hours that the temperature does not drop below 6 to 8°C. This in effect means that the average temperature for a given 24 hour period is raised considerably, enabling warmer growing plants to perform much better.

Heat loss by convection is of major importance if the house is subject to continuous ventilation. In most cases ventilation takes place even when doors and windows are shut. Warm air can leak through the structure and cold air enters. I try and prevent this as much as possible by sealing slits and gaps. Of those there are quite a few once we start searching.

New Zealand is blessed with many sunny days. Usually the stuffiness developed during a relatively air-tight night can be relieved quickly by putting the door ajar once the sun is out in the morning. There soon are as many as three air changes per hour if the door is left ajar with a light breeze blowing.

Heat loss by radiation and conduction can also be considerable but depends more on the kind of material we use. Loss by convection is reduced by fitting those materials more accurately and air-tight.

The use of an extractor fan will speed up the changes of air, but also expels a lot of heat (read energy - dollars and cents). The crucial art of striking a happy medium is what many commercial growers stand or fall by.

Making maximum use of the warmth of the sun is left to the individual.

In my cool house of 12 x 4 m I use only a small fan for the internal circulation of sun-warmed air. The door acts as the main ventilator and appears to let in adequate amount of fresh air (and CO<sub>2</sub>). Being more mobile, internally circulated air exchanges more readily with the outside air through nooks and crannies than air that is stagnant. It's worth a try!

### BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD

The application of fertilizer is in most cases stopped during the colder months.

Applications during the rest of the year are still subject to hot debate. For some years now the trend has been to follow "research" which says that in spring cymbidiums shall receive N—P—K applications that are "high" in nitrogen (N), i.e. the flower initiation period up to the end of December. "High" potash (K) mixtures are applied in summer and autumn to aid flower development. There are still many variations and fine tuning of the above theory. Many still prefer to apply a "balanced" N—P—K mix at all times. "Balanced" in this case meaning equal amounts of the three elements, not what should be regarded as a balance by the poor plant. Anyhow, many fare equally well with different

systems. An indication of terrific tolerance on the part of our cymbidiums?

Latterly an Australian Kiwi (I'm told), Alvin Bryant, has been telling everyone who would listen that the high N story is all wrong at least in springtime! Cymbidiums have pseudobulbs that store (among other things) nitrogen. What they really need for flower initiation is high potash. High nitrogen mixes follow later in the year. He has tried it and claims unbelievable success. There is more to his story. Suffice it to say that perhaps we should make haste slowly and trust our own judgement and experience a bit more than we have been inclined to.

After all we have young plants and old. Early, medium and late flowering varieties which obviously have different flower initiation periods. Who has ever gone to the length of establishing these? and treating them accordingly? Many glib statements are made on many of these things. Very often there are angles that are overlooked and other possible approaches. Let's keep both feet on the ground.

6 Wedgewood Place  
Hamilton

*Bill Fransen of Hamilton, will be writing a series of articles for us under the pen name of 'Cogito'. Cogito means to think, or reflect, as in 'cogitate'. We look forward to his reflections.*

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*(continued from page 105, opposite)*

It was gratifying on set-up day when over 200 flowering plants arrived from various growers throughout the region. Special thanks must go to those people who brought plants from Whangarei, Wellington and New Plymouth. Without the response of these dedicated members we would not have had such variety of size, shape and colour.

Where possible the plants were grouped in pottery containers which were made available to us. This method of displaying very small plants such as *Pleurothallis sanderana* proved to be very successful. One of these tiny gems

alone almost goes unnoticed, but when many plants were placed in a bed of moss in a container, one could not help but notice and admire the result.

I'm told that approximately 10,000 people visited the gardens during the weekend. A letter of appreciation was received from the Auckland Regional Authority which in part read "your attractive and interesting display was much admired by garden visitors and contributed to a successful weekend". We are invited back again.

22 Pigeon Mt Road  
Bucklands Beach  
Auckland

# MASDEVALLIA DISPLAY AT AUCKLAND'S BOTANIC GARDENS

Val Bayliss

February 1988 saw the largest assembly to date of *Masdevallia* and closely related species.

In October 1987 it was suggested that we should extend the promotion of this genus towards 1990, with the staging of a display for the public. What better venue than the foyer of the Auckland Regional Authority Botanic Gardens at Manurewa.

The date was settled for the end of February, and as luck would have it, the Gardens were celebrating their 6th birthday on that very weekend. The general theme was to be container gardens, and many special features were being arranged. It was felt we could slot into this theme with our small plants, and we were made very welcome.

*Masdevallia* are found growing naturally in the cloud forests of South America which is a far cry from our February climate in Auckland. It was a bit of a worry to say the least, however with copious quantities of live sphagnum moss, and *Tillandsia usneoides* (spanish moss) plus a humidifier, we were able to create a suitable environment for a few days.

(continued on page 104, opposite)



Masdevallia Display at the Auckland Regional Authority  
Botanic Gardens, February 1988

Photography: Laurie Thurston.

# NEW ZEALAND ORCHID SOCIETY AUTUMN SHOW RESULTS

## OPEN CLASSES

**BARNES TROPHY**  
(Best Flowering Plant — Any Genus)

Mrs Del Chandler  
*Miltonia* Hamburg 'Red Velvet'  
AM/AOS x Violet 'Tears'

**TUCKER PRIZE**  
(Best Cymbidium)

R. & N. Armstrong  
*Cym.* Giselle 'Tainui'

**NZOS PRIZE**  
(Best Decorative Plant)

J. & M. Perry  
*Dendrobium bigibbum compactum*

**CARPENTER TROPHY**  
(Best Masdevallia)

Mrs Val Bayliss  
*Dracula gorgona*

**POINTS PRIZE**

Mrs Val Bayliss

## NOVICE CLASSES

**BRINDLE TROPHY**  
(Best Flowering Plant — Any Genus)

Malcolm Holmes  
*Brassidium Aloha* Elizabeth

**DAY PRIZE**  
(Best Cymbidium)

T. Monk  
*Cym.* Pettie Steadfast  
x Peter Pan 'Greensleeves'

**NZOS PRIZE**  
(Best Decorative Plant)

Mrs Desley Piper  
*Coelogyne massangeana*

**POINTS PRIZE**

Mrs I. Leahy

## RECENT N. Z. O. S. AWARDS

H.C.C. ((*C. luteola* x *B/c.* Rounder) X  
*B/c.* Bryce Canyon) 'Hilda'

F. Gronwall

C.C. *Paph.* Silvara 'Tamahere'

J. Blackman

A.M. *Oda.* Saint Clement 'Lacey'

A. Locke

C.C. *Cym.* Amapola 'Milford'

F.A. Ballard

H.C.C. *Odm. harryanum* 'Copper'

Geyserland Orchids

A.M. *Paph. micranthum* 'Geyserland'

Geyserland Orchids

H.C.C. (*Lc.* Seagulls x Beaufort)  
'Catts Magic'

Caryl Sellers



# PESTS OF ORCHIDS

## 7. Cockroaches, Crickets and Earwigs

G. M. Barker

Cockroaches, crickets and earwigs are insects that on occasion will feed on orchids, causing damage to aerial roots, young shoots, flower stems and flowers.

### Cockroaches

Cockroaches, together with mantids, comprise the insect order Dictyoptera. They are medium-sized to larger insects with well-developed exoskeleton. Cockroaches as a group may be recognised by the long, many-jointed antennae, biting mouthparts, flattened body with the head covered by the shield-like pronotum, and long legs adapted for rapid movement.

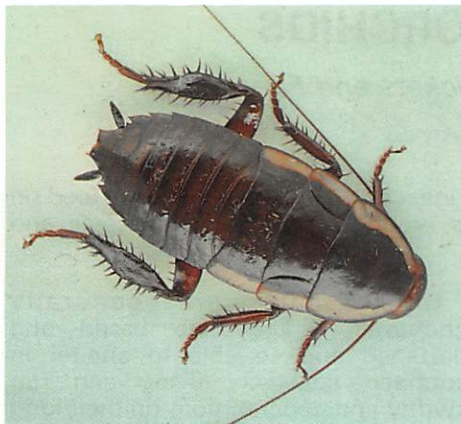
There are several species of cockroach in New Zealand, some native, some introduced. Four cosmopolitan species are established in this country: American cockroach *Periplaneta americana*, Pacific or Australian cockroach *P. australasiae*, German cockroach *Blatella germanica*, and the Gisborne cockroach *Drymaplaneta semivittata*. These cockroaches are mostly associated with human habitation. Adult insects have functional wings. The American and Pacific cockroaches originate from tropical areas and are mostly confined to well heated premises in this country.

The best known native species is the Black Stink cockroach, *Platyzosteria novaeseelandiae*, which produces an objectionable stink when alarmed. This species, and the smaller native *Celatoblatta* species live under loose bark of trees or wood heaps, or among stones on the ground. They may enter households or greenhouses but are thought unlikely to establish indoors. The native cockroaches have atrophied wings.

Cockroaches are generally nocturnal. They are broad and flattened and so able to shelter in confined spaces. They can run swiftly and depend more on their long antennae than eyes to find their way round.

Cockroaches live for about one year, reaching maturity in about nine months. The usual means of reproduction is from eggs enclosed in a ootheca. The ootheca is a hard, sclerotized capsule packed with eggs in a double row. As the ootheca is being built up, it is gradually extruded from the abdomen where it is carried for a short time, or for the whole incubation period. On hatching the ootheca splits into two halves to liberate the nymphs. The eggs of some species are laid singly, while young nymphs are born by others which lay no eggs. Nymphs basically resemble adults but lack wings. Roaches slowly attain adult size by repeated moulting of their exoskeletons.

Though tending to live in colonies, cockroaches do not make nests. Where there is abundant food, shelter and warmth, large populations can occur. Cockroaches are omnivorous scavengers, consuming organic matter of diverse origins. Their control is achieved by good hygiene, with the removal of debris from in and around the greenhouse to reduce their shelter and breeding sites. The walls, floors and benches of the greenhouse can be liberally sprayed or dusted with diazinon or malathion insecticides.



Gisborne Cockroach

### Crickets

Crickets are insects belonging to the order Orthoptera. Locusts, wetas and grasshoppers also belong to this group. They are medium-sized to large insects with well-developed exoskeleton and hind legs enlarged for jumping.

There are several cricket species in New Zealand. The small field crickets *Nemobius bivattatus*, *Pteronembius bigelowi*, *P. nigrovus* and the mute cricket *Lissotrachelus maoricum* range in colour from black to fawn and do not grow larger than about 10mm long. They occur in pastures and other grassy areas and can be seen during the day actively hopping about.

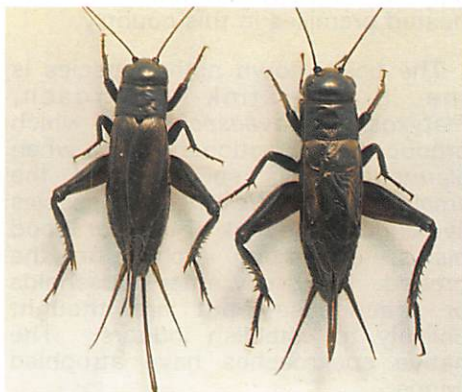
Better known because of its larger size and its damage to pastures is the Black Field Cricket, *Teleogryllus commodus*. This species is commonly found throughout the grassland areas of the North Island and the warmer coastal areas of the South Island extending south to Kaikoura. Adult black field crickets are about 30mm long and range in colour from black to chestnut brown. They have wings which are normally folded over the abdomen to form a point which extends beyond the body. The males' hard outer wing-covers are

rubbed together to make the characteristic chirping sound with which they attract females.

Females of the black field cricket use their spear shaped ovipositor to embed the white cigar shaped eggs about 20mm deep in the soil. Egg laying may continue for 2-3 months of late summer-autumn, during which time 500-2,000 eggs can be laid by each female. The adults die in early winter and the species survives over winter as nesting eggs. Eggs begin development in the spring and hatch in October or November. The resulting nymphs grow rapidly, passing through about 12 moults before reaching the adult stage.

Young nymphs of the black field cricket are rarely seen, as when disturbed they run for shelter and keep well hidden. Larger nymphs and adults require cover to protect them from the sun's rays as less than 20 minutes exposure to the mid-day summer sun will kill them. It is for this reason that large numbers of crickets are found on clay soils which are prone to cracking in summer. Larger nymphs and adults are very mobile, with the adults engaging in nightly flights in February and March. It is during this period that crickets can occur in the greenhouse, shade house, or among plants placed outdoors.

Black Field Cricket



Crickets feed mostly at night and early morning. In pastures they feed on a wide variety of plants, especially various grasses.

In districts where cricket populations are high and where the insects frequent orchid growing areas, control is best achieved by applying insecticide baits to the ground beneath the benches and to the ground in the surrounds. Baits are prepared by soaking wheat, barley, oat or crushed maize grains in a malathion solution overnight. Mix 5 kg of grain in 65 ml of 100% malathion emulsifiable concentrate (or 125 ml of 50% malathion). Store in a sealed container away from children and pets. Apply the baits at 200 grams per 100 square metres.

### Earwigs

Earwigs belong to the insect order Dermaptera. There are about nine species of earwigs known at present in New Zealand. Four of them are natives and the remainder cosmopolitan. The best known and most common is the European earwig *Forficula auricularia*. It has a dark reddish-brown flattened body up to 20mm long, terminating in a pair of pincers at the hind end. Leathery wing cases extending a short way along the back protect a pair of larger membranous wings. These earwigs rarely fly, however, preferring to crawl.

European earwigs normally live in the soil, beneath stones or debris, to a depth of 50mm. They are nocturnal and seek shelter during the day.

Adults and eggs overwinter in nests underground or in moist sheltered places. The pearly-white globular eggs and pale first instar nymphs are guarded and protected by the female earwig. Nymphs pass through four moults to reach maturity. Mature adults appear in November or December. There is only one generation per year, although



European Earwig

overwintering females produce a second batch of eggs which hatch later than those laid pre-winter.

The European earwig is omnivorous, feeding on a variety of live and dead insects and plants, lichens and pollen. Because of their scavenging and predatory feeding habits earwigs can be beneficial. In orchards, for example, they prey upon aphids, psyllids and caterpillars. In spring, when populations are high, earwigs can become pests by feeding on vegetation. Typically they attack fruit close to the ground, stonefruits, and the foliage and flowers of some ornamental plants and vegetables. Plants chewed by earwigs look similar to those damaged by slugs, but without the characteristic slime trails.

Earwig populations are not reduced by conventional spraying because they spend the daytime hidden in hard to reach places. Reducing the area where earwigs can hide away during the day will have a long-term effect on keeping their numbers down. Known or likely earwig hiding places could also be sprayed with chlorpyrifos, diazinon, carbaryl or dichlorvos. Baits containing an insecticide plus an attractive food source are the most effective methods of chemical control.

The bait recipe is—

wheat, bran or oatmeal 500g;  
molasses or treacle 150ml;  
malathion 25% wettable  
powder 30g;  
water 450ml

Dissolve the maldison and molasses or treacle in the water and add to the bran or oatmeal to make a friable mash. Scatter the bait on the greenhouse floor or benches. Cover the bait with netting or boards to protect from birds and pets.

*Ruakura Soil & Plant Research Station  
Hamilton*



## **TUCKER'S NEW NURSERY**

**An Interesting Orchid House—**

*Ross Tucker*

Building a new nursery takes a lot of persistence and perseverance by the person concerned, in this case, me.

The first sod of earth was turned on the 1st May 1987 and the building shell completed in early October.

The building is made of steel portal frames 15m wide at 4.5m apart, to give an overall floor space of over 12,000 square feet, or 1,000 square metres.

The major difference in my construction from the ordinary conventional glasshouses is the walls, which are made of 2m high solid insulated polystyrene freezer panel. This panel is 2 inches or 40mm thick polystyrene squeezed between two layers of tin and painted white. These walls give a temperature conductivity of 0.2°C per hour heat loss. The roof is a new product called Suncall, and insulated with another layer of plastic underneath. The roof has 2 x 2 m ridge vents, which open and shut automatically on a thermostat and this will also control the heating temperatures, giving an overall effect of an insulated glasshouse with lots of light.

To date, night temperatures have run at 5 to 8°C higher inside without any heating, and day temperatures only 2 to 4°C higher with the ridge vents opening and shutting as required.

Other features which have been used are a computer operated trickle feed system with the capacity feeding of 30,000 flowering plants to be individually watered and fed as required. There is also back-up heating of 60 kW for those frosty mornings.

Currently this greenhouse is used for flowering orchids and the small plants are still being grown at our other nursery in Bayswater. Space has been allotted as follows:

10,000 flowering Cymbidiums  
5,000 flowering Phalaenopsis  
5,000 Odontoglossum Alliance  
5,000 Zygopetalums  
and 5,000 other genera

Also there is room for house plants and vegetable plants which help make a great display in the front of the building as a shop for selling to the general passing public. The floor area of this is 300m and has the office, work area and kitchen in it.

The overall effect is a modern glasshouse, which is less labour intensive and more conservative in heating, but not losing any lighting and ventilation. After only three months I am seeing plants which I did not expect to flower, sending up multiple spikes, which speaks well for the future.

So far, I am very well pleased with the performance of this new structure, and look forward to its continuing success.

*51 King Edward Avenue  
Bayswater  
AUCKLAND 9*

### **Closing Dates**

for

Vol. 14 No. 6: 16th September

Vol. 15 No.1: 4th November

## Spring in your Greenhouse

Glenn Anderson

*The spring is sprung  
The grass is ris  
I wonder where  
The birdies is*

Ah, spring! That most wonderous time of year when daffodils flower and lambs gambol and your orchids take on a new lease of life. The lengthening daylight hours and increasing, day-time temperatures (even though the night time temperatures are probably still fairly cold) have an almost miraculous effect on your plants. New roots appear and the older ones branch and produce green growing tips and with good cultural management, they herald a season of good strong growth and a bountiful crop of flowers. At least, that is the dream that keeps us all going. But orchid growers by the very nature of their hobby, tend to be ever optimistic, letting their occasional successes carry them through their few failures and more frequent mediocrities. But that feeling of first in a section at a show for a seedling you have grown from flask, or even your own cross, is a 'high' that will stay with you for a very long time. Imagine 'Best in Show' in 1990. Ah, the stuff of dreams!!

But enough of waxing eloquent. On to business. Early spring is the ideal time for repotting many of your orchids. That way those new roots will go straight down into fresh mix and your plant will suffer only minimal set back. A few genera however, are best left till late summer as soon as the worst of the heat has passed and that gives them a couple of months of warm weather to settle in before winter sets in. These include Miltonias, Paphs, some Phallies and Odonts and any genera that typically flowers from October — December. Generally, anything that is flowering or in spike in the spring should not be disturbed as you will lose those flowers. But for the rest, early spring it is.

Small seedlings can just be potted on without disturbing the roots or mix, that is, if the mix is still in good condition, open and well draining. If it is starting to break down and look more like soil than mix, get rid of it. Air around the roots is just as important to their health as moisture. To pot on, one simply removes the small pot, takes a new pot one to two sizes larger, puts a layer of mix in the bottom, sits in the undisturbed root ball, and packs new mix around the

root ball. The mix must be tamped in firmly to establish good contact between the root ball and the new mix. Remember, never pot up a plant in a fine mix into a coarser mix or the original rootball will rot. Always pot up into the same size mix or finer.

Larger plants that have been in their pot for several years will almost certainly need all the mix removing and many of the old roots also. Any brown soft roots can be pulled off completely and healthy long roots can be shortened back for easy handling. Don't cut the roots other than with a sterile instrument or you could be transmitting virus. A good 'yank' should do the trick.

Don't worry too much about man-handling the roots of your plant. Many of the roots do not survive repotting anyway, and will be rotten within a couple of months and those newer roots that do survive will put out side branches from many of the places where they were damaged during repotting. But most important are the new roots that the plant will put out in response to this treatment. These are the ones that will take your plant through the next few years.

I remember being horrified a few years ago watching Andy Easton repot a large *Cymbidium*. He took a machete with about an 18" (45cm) blade, sterilized it, laid the plant on it's side, and with an almighty THWACK took the roots off about 4" (10cm) below the pseudobulbs. I stood with my mouth hanging open waiting to see what he would do next. But from then on it was very simple. Without the tangle of roots it was easy to divide the plant and remove the back bulbs. The divisions went into about 20 cm pots and the 10 cm stub of roots gave plenty of anchorage for the plant when the mix was potted firmly around it. Andy said that he could guarantee that within six weeks he would have a pot full of roots. But do remember that he has heated greenhouses and these abused plants do not go below about 8°C. If your conditions are colder, wait a little while before attempting any jungle warfare. Then keep these plants drier at the roots and in higher humidity for a few weeks till the new roots are under way.

Potting, itself, is an art. One that must be studied and mastered if you wish to grow good plants. The first thing is to make yourself a potting stick. A hammer handle from a hardware store at around \$10 is ideal, or chop the top off an old rake or broom handle and plane the cut end down to about half it's width. This is used to firm the mix into the pot around the roots of the plant. It is very important that the plant is firm in it's pot when repotted. If it is not, the plant can flap around in a breeze and any newly emerging roots from the base of the pseudobulbs will be damaged and lost.

Don't be afraid to pound the mix in. Put a layer of mix on the bottom of the pot. Put in the plant or division and hold it in the position you want it to finish up in. With one hand holding both the pot and plant, half fill the pot with mix. Then, using your potting stick, work around the outside of the pot, tamping the mix firmly into place. Then fill the pot up and re-firm. By working around

the outside of the pot you keep away from any new roots, but it will also tighten the mix in towards the centre.

A good test for firm potting, is that you should be able to lift the plant up by the leaves and not have the pot and mix land in your lap. This however, should not be expected of a plant with hardly any roots. There is nothing to anchor the plant in this situation and it should be securely staked until a new root system has developed.

The old tried and true rules of potting will always apply — the back of the plant to the back of the pot to leave room for new growths at the front; leave a good inch of headroom at the top of the pot to promote good watering; the rhizome, especially for Catts, should be sitting on top of the mix; monopodials, such as Paphs and Phallies, should be planted a little deeper so that the new roots coming higher up still go into new mix. These are all important factors that give you an extra edge in producing well grown plants.

After-care of repotted plants is important. Keep your plants drier, warmer, shadier, and in higher humidity and they should not suffer too great a set back. At this time of year nature does some of this for you anyway, so you shouldn't have too much trouble. Once a new root system is established, water and fertilize with weak fertilizer frequently and you should be pleased with the results. Use a higher nitrogen fertilizer at this time of the year to promote green growth.

By now the bulk of the spring shows are in full swing and are probably making you salivate with envy and desire. One such plant that I would like to share with you is *Lc. Trick or Treat* registered by Stewart Inc in 1973. This little charmer is only 2 generations away from 3 different species, *L. cinnabarina*, *L. flava*, and *C. aurantiaca*. All three species have small brightly coloured flowers on tall stems and the *C. aurantiaca* gives it a heavy substance.

*Lc. Trick or Treat* is being used a lot in breeding today to produce large multiple flowered heads of very bright, eye-catching colours. They stand out so much that you can't miss them in the displays at shows. One such hybrid has been made with *Slc. Yellow Doll*, which has for parents and grandparents *C. luteola*, *L. cinnabarina* and *S. coccinea*, again all small brightly coloured flowers. This hybrid was made by Ned Nash and registered by Stewart Inc in 1986 and called *Slc. Voodoo Child*. There have been a lot of these seedlings released in New Zealand in the last couple of years and most should now be flowering size, as Trick or Treat hybrids flower on quite young plants. So if you do see such a plant at a show, think for a minute about the breeding that has gone on to produce it and then just stand back and enjoy!!

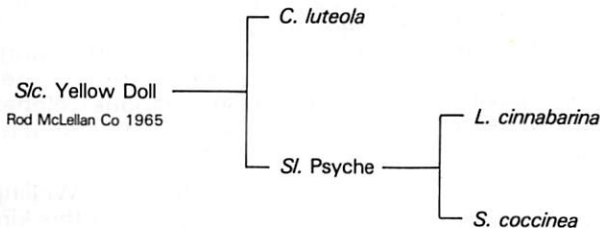
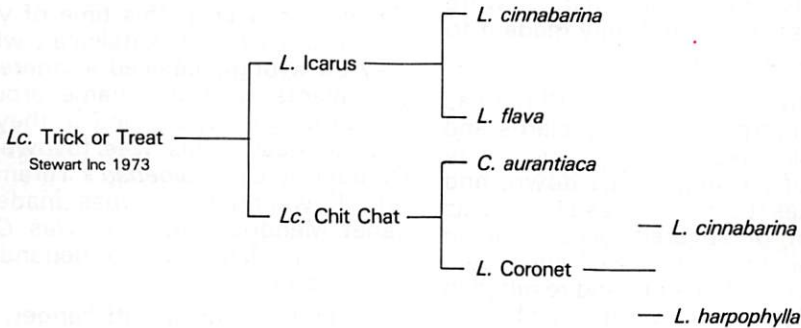
421 Pukehangi Road  
Rotorua



*Slc. Voodoo Child*

Grower: Geyslerland Orchids

Photographer: Andy Easton



# *Cymbidiums All Year Round!*

Bob McCulloch

The flowering season of Cymbidiums can be extended more than most people realise, as I discovered when preparing plants for the 1985 Conference in Wellington.

My normal practise is to grow all my Cymbids. in a shadehouse over summer, moving the flowering ones into the glasshouse as the spikes become visible, and back to the shadehouse when they have finished flowering. The plants which aren't smart enough to flower stay in the shadehouse all year, as an incentive.

There was a lot of talk about manipulation of flowering times before the Conference, and this led to the glasshouse being filled with late flowering plants, and everything else staying in the shadehouse because there was no room. This had an unexpected bonus because some of the early flowering plants were delayed so much that they made it to the Show as well.

It is my custom after Christmas dinner to stroll among my plants and count the spikes. It's as good a way as any of shaking things down, and sometimes it produces results. It was the sight of several spikes, one in particular which was well advanced, which set me thinking, and resulted in the display of a flowering Cymbidium at every Society meeting in 1986.

In February, *Cym. Peter Pan* 'Greensleeves' was in flower. This is a rewarding plant to grow, if it is kept warm all year it will flower as soon as a bulb matures. There are several Peter Pan hybrids which will flower as early as this, such as Sue and Dear Lisa.

The March plant was *Cym. Siempre* 'Green Summer', a perfumed green mini, followed in April by *Cym. erythrostylum*, a species white which appears in the parentage of most early white hybrids.

*Cym. Ensikhan* 'Alpha Orient' was displayed in May, this is a cross between *Cym. ensifolium* and *Cym. Nam Khan*, and perhaps should not have been flowering at this time of year. It was followed by *Cym. tracyanum* in June, one of the early flowering standards.

July was represented by *Cym. Yuri* 'Red Velvet', a dark red mini, and August by *Cym. pumilum* x Glasgow, which was displayed because it is small and different, and there are plenty of Cyms. in flower by now.

September, October and November were represented by choosing names out of a hat, as there are so many Cyms. in flower at this time of year. First was *Cym. Jill* 'Katalnica', which may be wrongly labelled as there are two plants with this name around, and although they are similar, they are not identical. This was followed in October by *Cym. sinense* x Terama, a first flowering of a cross made by Janet Mendoza, and last was *Cym. Ivy Fung* 'Radiance', a dependable deep red mini.

December was a cliff-hanger, but by keeping it cool, dry and shaded, *Cym. Oriental Legend* 'Enchantress' was persuaded to hold on to it's flowers for just long enough. This cross is remarkable for the range of flowering times, from June to December from various clones if persuasion is used, and not much less if it isn't.

It is obvious that the Wellington region is the best place for this kind of exercise, as flowering can be influenced at both ends of the range by appropriate heating or cooling. The plants used for the 'difficult' parts of the year are not rare, expensive, or



difficult to obtain. Every one of them is currently available from commercial growers in New Zealand, if you are quick enough.

In fact, while talking to a commercial grower recently, I learned that she has not been without a Cymbidium in flower every day for over two years. Now that is something to aim for!

18 Davis Crescent  
Upper Hutt



### Eleventh

## Australian Orchid Conference

18th – 25th September 1988

This Conference is the orchid community's contribution to the bi-centennial celebrations, and the theme of the show is to be 'Australia's Bicentenary' for the many Society's displays. **Australian Native Orchids** will be a big feature of the Conference, to be held in Sydney from 18th to 25th September 1988.

The island continent of Australia boasts a wide variety of orchids, both epiphytic and terrestrial. Hybridists have been working with these over several decades with increasingly spectacular results. Every year we see new examples of what can be achieved by selective hybridising of these unique and beautiful orchids.

Three prominent experts will review Australian Native Orchids at the conference lecture session: Mark Clements, Les Nesbitt, and David Banks.

The Conference is ideally timed to feature Australian Native Orchids and their hybrids in great profusion and variety, as most are spring flowering. A great display of various species and their hybrids is expected at the Show.

Conference Secretary  
Allan Avis

5 Knocklayde Street, Ashfield  
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at the Memorial Hall,  
Wanganui

**OCTOBER 8th - 9th 1988**

*A special feature will be displays  
from neighbouring societies and  
special displays by club members.*



*Orchid and Rata*

# 16. GEORGINA BURNE HETLEY

(1832? — 1898)

Ian St. George

The McKellar family emigrated from England to New Plymouth when Georgina was twenty: four years later she married Charles Hetley, a farmer of Taranaki, where she would write later, "we went through the war and had houses burnt, and sheep, cattle and horses carried off by the natives"; later they moved to Auckland. No record is available of her training in painting, but she was persuaded to paint native flowers by "a gentleman present" at a lecture by Thomas Cheeseman in 1884, and there are no records of prizes in exhibitions in the 1880s — so perhaps she began to paint only in her late forties.

She wanted to make known the beauty of New Zealand flowers, and eventually she accepted government help with transport around the country in search of specimens. The journey was to result in a superb book of chromolithographs, *'The Native Flowers of New Zealand'*, published in London in 1888, now a valuable rarity. She described her journey in the preface: it is well worth reading; here are a few excerpts.

"... I had to travel by sea and by land, coaching over rough and dangerous roads, and at great risk, expense and fatigue. But it was a labour of love. Every new flower was a delight and wonder . . ."

Auckland, Thames, Taranaki, Manawatu, Masterton, Wellington, by sea to Nelson, Lake Rotoiti, then to Arthur's Pass . . .

"The drivers of the coaches on this road are brothers. They are most careful, and it is very necessary that they should be so. Your heart is in your mouth most of the way. At one place in particular, the road is built outside the cliff, and supported on piles, which are inserted somehow in the rock. The cliff rises perpendicularly above you, and there is only just room for the coach to pass round without touching, and there is hardly an inch to spare on the outside edge which has no wall or fence. If one of the horses shied or fell, coach and all would go over into the river, which rushes along a hundred feet below, and we saw all this from a

turn in the road before we came to it, which makes it worse. I kept my face turned to the cliff, but my niece, who was with me and had a stronger head, kept calling my attention to the magnificent scenery. We both drew a long breath when it was over, and were truly thankful to be safely through, yet the coach goes every day with the same driver. The chief danger I believe, lies in some of the wooden piles becoming decayed, how the road was ever made is marvellous."

And so on to Greymouth . . .

"We crossed several rivers, sometimes bumping over the big boulders and struggling through the rushing waters, others by ferry, and at one, the Teramakau, we left the coach and entered a kind of wooden box, hung on a rope, which was wound up by a small steam engine on the other side."

To Hokitika, across the Otira to Christchurch, Dunedin and back, and so on home. Quite a journey in those days.

Shortly afterward she left for London with her paintings, and for a time during their publication worked at Kew on drawings of flower dissections. At Kew I saw a number of small watercolours, seemingly cut from a notebook — one of *Pterostylis banksii*, and another of perhaps *Thelymitra pulchella* "comparatively common, flowers Oct and Nov. Westland Mrs Hetley July 1888" — sketches from the journey no doubt.

"*Native Flowers*" is a magnificent book. The chromolithographs are brightly coloured, mostly on a green—grey background, and the originals are now in the Napier Museum, along with

---

Plate. Orchid and rata. Oil painting by Georgina Hetley, ca 1887. Reproduced courtesy of the Hawke's Bay Art Gallery and Museum.

some unpublished paintings. Anne Kirker is disparaging of Georgina Hetley in *New Zealand women artists (1986)*: "... a typical example of how the art of botanical illustration could be popularised through the crude reproduction process of chromo—lithography", but *Native Flowers* was popular, and went to a French edition.

Two orchids are illustrated, *Earina mucronata* and *Dendrobium cunninghamii*, along with drawings of

the dissected flower (labellum, column) of the former. The illustrations are accompanied by a brief text, for example;

"The roots of *Earina mucronata* often completely encase the branch on which it grows. The whole plant can be scaled off, when it forms a lovely object to hang up in a fernery, with its numerous heads of pale yellow flowers, hanging on their slender stalks, amongst the long, narrow, grass-like leaves."

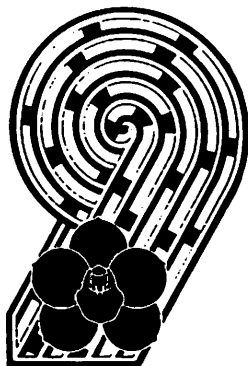
45 Cargill Street  
Dunedin



## 13th World Orchid Conference 1990

Auckland, New Zealand  
May 1988

### Highlights from Newsletter No. 9



Societies have now received samples of the new 1988 Tea Spoons, Aerogrammes, and Tea Towels. The new Tea Towels are really smart and we already have some good orders coming in for them. The aerogrammes are also proving popular and selling well. Notice that on these two items we have avoided direct reference to 1990 so that they have more universal appeal and open up selling opportunities to those outside orchid societies. The spoons have a new cymbidium orchid design on one and a phalaenopsis on the other. These now make up a set of four with the first two introduced last year, and will be added to probably next year.

### SHOW JUDGING

A National judging seminar was recently organised by the Orchid Council of New Zealand to bring together judges from each of the three judging groups now operating in New Zealand. This was the first combined session planned to expose all judges in New Zealand to the special demands of judging a World Orchid Conference exhibition. It is no easy task to bring together many local and overseas orchid judges and send them out to adjudicate a huge show of flowers, in great variety, set in

spectacular displays. That band of international devotees who are already well practiced in these big events seem to take it all in their stride, but even these experienced judges will be pleased and thankful if our Conference judging is well planned and organised.

### SHOW NEWS

An interesting news snippet is that we plan to arrange special daylight lighting over the whole exhibition area. This should be good for photographers and for viewing.

We are already receiving many requests for Show space. It is obvious that many Societies have, even at this early stage, put together a great deal of thought for their displays. To those Societies not yet convinced they should build a display, let us assure you that in participating, you will generate enthusiasm for the Conference, get a tremendous satisfaction from being a part of it, and build Society spirit. It is your chance of a lifetime, having a World Orchid Conference at your doorstep. It will never be easier for you to display at such an event.

### 1990 CYMBIDIUMS

Remember that our specially raised cymbidiums are available at \$2.50 per plant in mixed lots of 48 in a tray.

As before, suggested retail selling price is \$4.00. Societies selling can retain the mark up, or of course 1990 WOC will gladly accept the extra. Trays of these plants can be collected in Auckland by arrangement. These are very well established plants now and excellent value. Phone Marilyn Johnson at Auckland (09) 298-6619.

As a reminder, here is a list of the cymbidium hybrids available:—

Claude Pepper 4n x Yowie Flame  
'Geyserland' 4n

Mimi 'Mary Bea' x Dr Baker  
'Hyacinth' 4n

Rose Armstrong 'First Choice' x  
Hazel Tyers 'Santa Maria' 4n  
(Sleeping Giant 'Tetragreen' x Sensation  
'Chianti') x Black Opal 'Treasure'

Showgirl 'Mary Oviatt' x Hazel Tyers  
'Baby Maidstone' 2n

Claudona 'Rajah' 4n x  
(Miretta x Doris Aurea')

Langleyense x Mary Pinchess  
'Shamrock'

Most of these are still available.

*R. W. Dix  
Chairman — Publicity and  
Public Relations Committee*

## Show Information

*HIBISCUS COAST ORCHID SOCIETY  
26th & 27th August*

*CANTERBURY ORCHID SOCIETY  
1st & 2nd October  
Roy Stokes Hall, New Brighton*

*MANAWATU ORCHID SOCIETY  
1st & 2nd October  
NOT 30th September, as published previously  
Conference Centre, Palmerston North*

*CAPITAL CITY ORCHID SOCIETY  
3rd & 4th September  
Onslow College, Johnsonville*

*DANNEVIRKE & DISTRICT ORCHID SOCIETY  
7th & 8th October  
Manchester Unity Hall  
Main Road, Dannevirke*

A first Show for:—

*TOKORO A ORCHID SOCIETY  
Saturday 15th October  
St. John's Ambulance Hall  
Logan Street, Tokoroa*

For further Show Dates, see previous issue,  
page 81



## ORCHIDS IN NEW ZEALAND BACK ISSUES

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

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421 Pukehangi Road  
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Vol. 12:            \$1.50/issue + postage

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A very difficult variety to describe, as words and pictures do not do it justice. Basically a rich brown with mustard and orange overtones. A very bold oxblood red lip on an upright spike with 16–20 blooms. Prolific and free flowering. (See Wellington Orchid Society coloured cymbidium booklet)

#### **TIJUANA PURITY ‘HOOTER’ 3n**

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(See Wellington Orchid Society Booklet)

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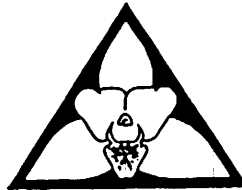
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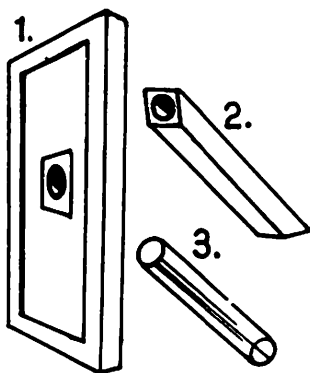
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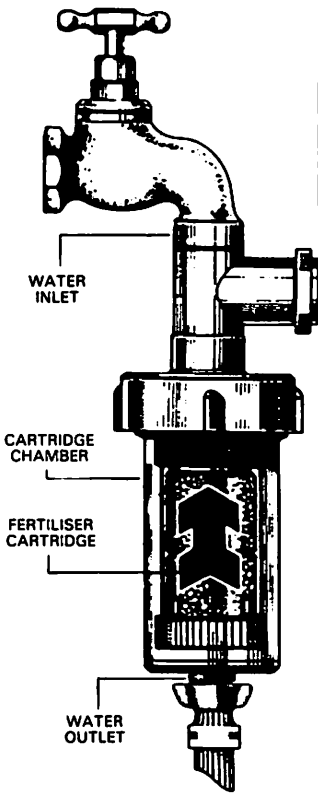
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## PORTRAITS OF NEW ZEALAND ORCHID SPECIES



*Pterostylis australis*—is one of the larger N.Z. greenhood orchids, occurring on wetter mountains throughout the country.

It flowers during December and January.

In this cut-away flower, we can see the column with yellow pollinia on top, the translucent white column lobes, and below them on the column, the shiny, sticky stigmatic surface.

The narrow red-tipped labellum or lip is on the left.



Photography: Bob Goodger