



# *Orchids*

*in New Zealand*

Volume 16 No. 1

February 1990



## 13th World Orchid Conference

Auckland,  
5-17 September 1990

### REGISTRATION BOOKLETS

*including full information on  
Conference and Show.*

## NOW AVAILABLE

*Send for your copy to:*

W.O.C. Committee Secretary  
P.O. Box 29-152  
Auckland 3

## NEW

## *Orchids Australia*

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
AUSTRALIAN ORCHID COUNCIL  
**6 ISSUES PER YEAR**

Subscription Rates - NEW ZEALAND  
Sea Mail Aus. \$32.00 OR N.Z. equivalent  
Air Mail Aus. \$40.00 OR N.Z. equivalent

BANKCARD, MASTERCARD, VISA  
ACCEPTED.

(Advise Card Name - Number & Expiry Date)

Send Application to:  
Orchids Australia,  
P.O. Box 11, Highbury,  
South Australia, 5089

# ORCHID EXTRAVAGANZA

## Norfolk Hall — Taranaki May 19th and 20th

Maybe you missed the Combined growers 'Specials Weekend' in Rotorua in February. Here is your opportunity to attend another of these fun weekends.

By popular demand

### Specials and New Releases

*Commercial Growers participating are:*

*Ann Marie Orchids; Whangarei, Geyserland Orchids; Rotorua,  
Papa Aroha Orchids; Coromandel, Porter Orchids; Waikanae,  
South Pacific Orchids; Napier, Tudor Orchids; Bulls.*

**You will find us on State Highway 3, midway between  
Stratford and Inglewood.**

**LOOK FOR THE ORCHID SIGNS**

Hours Saturday 19th 9.00 a.m. — 5.00 p.m.

Sunday 20th 9.00 a.m. — 12.00 noon

**Have a real country weekend. Bring your own lunch.**

will be available

Published bi-monthly  
ISSN 0110-5256

**EDITOR:**

MR P. C. TOMLINSON  
14 Putnam Street  
Northland  
Wellington 5  
Phone: (04) 758-765

**SUBSCRIPTIONS:**

Vol 16, 1990 (6 issues)  
(Including postage and  
GST): \$18.00

to be sent to:

**Distribution Secretary:**

MR T. NICHOLLS  
P.O. Box 365  
Taupo 3300

**Back Issues Secretary**

MRS G. ANDERSON  
421 Pukehangi Road  
Rotorua

**All correspondence for:**

**President**

MR A. EASTON

**Secretary**

MRS J. FOSTER EASTON

**Treasurer**

MR P. ANDERSON

**To:**

P.O. Box 390  
Rotorua

**ADVERTISEMENTS TO:**

W. J. DEED PRINTING LTD.  
16 Bowen Street  
Waiuku

Advertising payments  
may be sent to the  
Treasurer.

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

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

Printed by W.J. Deed Printing Ltd  
16 Bowen Street, Waiuku.

Phone: (085) 57-133

# Orchids

IN NEW ZEALAND

incorporating 'The New Zealand Orchid Review'

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

ORCHID COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND  
NEW ZEALAND ORCHID SOCIETY

VOL. 16 NO. 1

FEBRUARY 1990

## CONTENTS

Editorial 'The New Look Orchids in NZ' .....	2
Special Feature — Paphiopedilums	
Culture by the late F. R. Askin .....	4
<i>P. charlesworthii</i> F. R. Askin .....	7
<i>P. delenatii</i> F. R. Askin .....	8
<i>P. bellatulum</i> F. R. Askin .....	9
Paph. Cultural Groupings by P. C. Tomlinson .....	10
Cover P. St. Swithin .....	11
Orchid Ramblings by Bob McCulloch .....	12
Cogito's Diary by Bill Fransen .....	16
A Reassessment of NZ's Native Orchids by Brian Molloy ...	20
Test your IQ Crossword .....	24
Pin Pranks by Ben Hardy .....	
Have A Go by Garry Jackson .....	31

## ILLUSTRATIONS

<i>Paphiopedilum</i> St. Swithin .....	cover
<i>Paphiopedilum spicerianum</i> .....	4
Late F. R. Askin in his glasshouse .....	5
<i>Paphiopedilum charlesworthii</i> .....	7
<i>Paphiopedilum delenatii</i> .....	8
<i>Paphiopedilum bellatulum</i> .....	9
<i>Paphiopedilum hirsutissimum</i> .....	10
<i>Paphiopedilum Maudiae</i> 'Magnificum' .....	10
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> St. Swithin .....	11
<i>Cattleya</i> Bonnie Houck .....	12
<i>Cymbidium</i> Touchstone 'Mahogany' .....	13
<i>Disa uniflora</i> .....	16
Adult two spotted spider mite .....	17
<i>Dendrobium cunninghamii</i> .....	20
Black Gardens Canberra & Mark Clements and Ron Hunstall .....	21
Terrestrial Orchid Collection Australian Botanic Garden .....	22
<i>Caladenia lyalii</i> .....	23
Flask of Orchid Seedlings .....	32

# Welcome . . .

## to the NEW look

# Orchids

IN NEW ZEALAND

As announced by the President of Conzed in the last issue of this magazine, I have agreed to assume the role of Editor. After ten years as Editor of the Journal of the Wellington Orchid Society, I was enjoying retirement, but, after refusing the job a number of times, have agreed to assume this position.

Over recent years, one of the features of life in this country has been 'change' — affecting virtually all aspects of our daily life. Magazine publication is not immune from this, as as soon as you opened this magazine, you will have seen a number of changes have been made here as well. All the changes made, and some others that will become evident as the year progresses, are designed to make this a more attractive, interesting publication, and one that meets modern magazine standards, and which is also appropriate for the new decade of the 1990's. The changes in layout and typeface are designed to make this a more readable publication.

The changes have not been made without a lot of thought, and are intended to meet the needs of all those involved in a modern magazine partnership — those producing it, the reader, and the advertiser. In the final analysis, however, it is you the reader that must make the final choice. We must reflect

### editorial



Orchids in New Zealand  
Editor:  
P. C. Tomlinson  
14 Putnam Street  
Northland  
Wellington 5, N.Z.

what you want. We have been guided by the responses to the recent Orchids in New Zealand readership survey — but we still look for your comments, both favourable and constructive criticism.

I regret that this issue is late. This has occurred for a number of reasons that need not be covered here.

In conjunction with the printer, a production timetable is being set up, and every endeavour will be made to adhere to this. Readers will know within a few days when their copy will arrive, and advertisers will be able to plan their advertisement with material fully appropriate for the publication date. This will require all contributor's co-operation, but we believe keeping to a publication schedule is of benefit to all, not just your editor and printer.

We live in a world of commercialism, and without the advertisers we could not continue. The changed placement of the advertisements is designed to give greater exposure to advertisers products, and also increase production flexibility. If you purchase products or plants from advertisements placed with the magazine, tell the advertiser. If you know of firms who could be interested in advertising in the magazine, tell us. If we can increase advertising rev-

enue, more funds will be available to increase the size of the magazine, and also to increase the amount of colour illustrations.

We always need articles — feature material is always required, but so are the short items. How about letting us all know about your favourite orchid, favourite orchid personality, favourite orchid book, orchid growing experience etc. If you start to write, you will find it is not as hard as many imagine to put thoughts to paper, and

everyone will enjoy sharing your thoughts and experiences. Orchid societies are also encouraged to send in information on members or activities which would be of interest to growers throughout the country. Some of this can be obtained from the newsletters, but there must be a lot more happening orchid wise which would be of interest to us all. If this is to become a real New Zealand publication, your support is required.

Elizabeth and Nick Miller have been Editors for

nearly five years. To them, and to all the other editors over the years, we all owe a vote of thanks. Just because a new editor changes the magazine does not mean criticism of their efforts, but is part of the evolutionary process, and reflecting the changed concepts and aims of the new editor.

Remember, the editor is only one part of the team. Express your thoughts and wishes, and become fully involved in this very important part of orchid growing in New Zealand.

## DONATIONS TO COLOUR FUND

*Thank you for all your donations. Such generosity allows us all to enjoy additional colour illustrations in our magazine.*

**Editor**

Ann Thornbury	Waiheke Island	Mrs J. M. Shayler	Whangarei
Peter Arthur	Hastings	George Boulton	Cambridge
Mrs A. Haynes	Wellington	Mrs J. Askin	Wellington
P. E. Cable	Wellington	Garden of the	Fiji
Mrs L. M. Ansell	Oamaru	Sleeping Giant	
Miss D. Bramley	Pukekohe	Mr J. B. Kinder	Upper Hutt
Mrs W. L. Fitzgibbons	Papamoa	Anonymous	Mt. Maunganui
Mrs R. Drew	New Plymouth	Mrs Ann Paish	Northland
Mr A. B. Jarmey	Christchurch	Mr D. G. Isles	Palmerston North
Mrs M. Connor	Otaki	Mr N. Maclean	Wellington
Mrs B. Maul	Stratford	Mrs E. J. Findlay	Christchurch
Mrs J. E. Walker	Stratford	Mrs P. J. Peszynski	Auckland
Mrs. J. Coard	Kaipoi	Mrs K. Heal	New Plymouth
Mrs L. Rockell	Northland	H. & J. Cox	Rotorua
Mrs M. Englebretson	Lower Hutt	Mrs G. B. Blain	Tokoroa
W. E. Wood	Lower Hutt	Mr F. F. O'Neill	Kaipoi
Mrs L. Kench	Raumati Beach	Mrs K. Parnell	Wellington
F. Zumbuhl	New Plymouth	G. A. Hawkins	Levin
G. T. Finch	Waiuku	Mrs C. A. Phillips	Te Awamutu
Mrs A. Bovaird	Rotorua	Phyllis Purdie	Wellington
K. J. Rasmussen	Auckland	Mrs J. M. Sallisbury	Henderson
W. R. Lomas	Onerahi	Mrs J. M. Wells	Nelson
D. M. Logan	Maraetai Beach	Mr Reg Smithers	Palmerston North
R. W. MacDonald	Wanganui	Mrs N. Gatehouse	Ruawai
Mrs V. Conway	Kawerau	Mr J. L. Jardine	Raglan
Mr K. Sherlock	Otaki	G. R. Burr	Kawerau
Mrs V. Glover	Palmerston North	Mr D. Richards	Tawa
K. L. Jefferies	Te Atatu	Mr A. E. Brown	Masterton

# PAPHIOPEDILUM CULTURE

**T**O GROW ORCHIDS well and to understand their needs it is necessary to know something of the conditions under which they grow in their native habitats. There are many books and other publications on this subject available from libraries and elsewhere, and their study is well worthwhile. This applies particularly to the culture of species and their first-generation — or primary — hybrids.

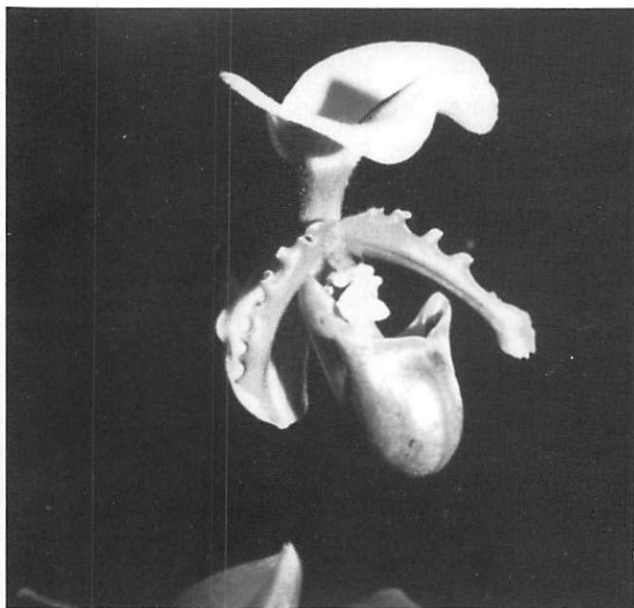
The paphiopedilum species grow mainly in tropical regions and are found in India, through Burma, China, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, the Phillipines, Indonesia to Papua-New Guinea. Some grow in cool conditions at altitudes of 5,000 feet or more, and some at much warmer locations near the sea. They grow in moist shady situations at or near ground level, usually rooted in a mixture of twigs, dead leaves and other forest-floor materials, though some are found anchored in crevices in rocky limestone slopes. Although their native habitats are so widely diverse, most of them can be cultivated together in the same glasshouse, and may make good house plants. They like warm, shady, well sheltered and moist conditions, and they dislike sudden temperature changes; they like it to be cosy! The cooler growing ones such as *P. insigne*, *villosum* and *spicerianum* are happy with a minimum temperature of about

*This month we feature paphiopedilums. Included is an article on culture by the late Frank Askin of Wellington, recognised as one of the best paph. growers of the time, together with some other of his articles on several of his favourite plants.*

12°C, while those that like it warmer, many of whose leaves are mottled in light and darker shades of green, thrive in temperatures of above 15°C.

## The Growing Medium

The growing medium must be free draining, must not get soggy, or ever be allowed to get bone dry. Although paphs will grow



*Paph. spicerianum*

in a variety of potting mixes, one comprising mainly pine bark is both simple and effective, especially if the bark is 'conditioned' before use to reduce its natural acidity and to add a little nutrient. The procedure is to soak the bark for three or four days in a tub of water with added ingredients proportioned as follows:

Graded pine bark  
5 mm to 20 mm... 10 litres  
Garden lime .....100 ml  
Dolomite lime .....100 ml  
Soluble nitrogenous fertilizer  
(such as Lush)..... 10 ml

The bark tends to float while the lime sinks, so that the mix should be stirred up vigorously two or three times a day. After the soaking period the bark should be allowed to drain for a further two or three days — a good way is to hang it up in a hessian bag — by which time it is ready to use. Plain bark treated in this way is a good growing medium on its own, but some growers like to add varying proportions of other free draining materials such as charcoal chips, polystyrene granules, scoria or pumice. The proportions are not critical, but the bark content should not be less than three quarters.

### Potting

When to repot depends on the reason for doing so. There are several reasons — the usual one is that the plant needs more root-room.

## Paphiopedilum Feature

Unflowered seedlings may outgrow their pot in a year, but adult plants will usually last two or three years before they need to be moved on. Another common reason is that the mix has deteriorated and must be renewed. Bark mixes are fairly durable and should last in good condition for two years.

The best time to repot a healthy plant is in late spring, and after flowering, but if a plant is sickly — and this is the third reason for repotting — it should

be repotted as soon as its poor condition is recognised.

Be careful when removing a plant from its pot, as the roots are very brittle and often attach themselves to the inside and bottom of the pot. Then completely clean away the old mix and trim back any dead roots. Choose a pot just big enough to accommodate the roots comfortably, and drill or burn some extra drain holes in it. Position the plant so that its base is just below the level of the top of the pot, pour in the mix, tapping the pot to consolidate it until it's almost full and the plant is steady. If the roots are few and short the plant may need staking



The late Frank Askin  
doing what he enjoyed most,  
working in his glasshouse.

Photo: J. Askin

Mrs Joyce Askin  
152 Moxham Avenue  
Hataitai  
Wellington.

It must not be wobbly! The plant can then be given its first watering and should not need another one for at least a week.

Newly potted plants like a little extra warmth and fairly deep shade but when they are established they should have more light, though not as much as for cattleyas. On a bright summer day there should be just the ghost of a shadow when a hand is passed over them.

### Watering

Correct watering is the most important cultural requirement and the most difficult one to master. Almost all paph losses are due to mistakes in watering. Ideally the mix should be just moist at all times, with sufficient porosity to allow air into it. Rain water is best, and it should be at least as warm as glasshouse temperature. After watering, which should be sufficiently heavy to have water draining freely from the bottom of the pot, allow the mix to become almost dry before watering again. This condition is difficult to judge, but it is much better to let the mix get a bit too dry than to water it when it is still wet. Many factors help determine how quickly the mix dries out — one of the most important being the humidity of the atmosphere. Small pots dry out more quickly than larger ones. Old mixes degenerate and their porosity is reduced. As an

approximate guide, a healthy plant in a 100 mm (4 inch) plastic pot would need watering about every three or four days in the summer and about once a week in the winter. This would be in average glasshouse conditions where the floor is damp most of the time. As a house plant, it would probably need watering a little more frequently. But have a good look at the mix before watering; if it is damp just below the surface wait another day or so.

## Paphiopedilum Feature

### Feeding

Paphs are mostly small plants and so also is their annual increase in size. It follows that their nutrient requirements must be small. Paphs resent over-feeding more than most plants, and too much fertiliser will soon kill the roots. A newly potted plant should not be given any additional feeding during the following three to six months, depending on how quickly it gets going again. Thereafter, if the plant is firmly established and in good health, it can be given a liquid fertiliser at no more than half the recommended concentration at about monthly intervals during late spring, summer and autumn. A light top-

dressing of a half-and-half mixture of bone-dust and dolomite lime at the rate of a level teaspoon full per 4 inch pot can be given in early summer and again in early autumn. But don't overdo feeding — it can be fatal; and don't try to revive a sick plant with a dose of fertiliser; that would just hasten its demise!

### Pests and Diseases

Careful attention to glasshouse and plant hygiene is essential to healthy growth. Provided this is assured paphs are remarkably free from disease, and the occasional treatment of bud or leaf rot is all that is likely to be required. For this purpose a freely-available combined fungicide-pesticide dust is very effective. ◀

### Summary

Growing medium — Graded bark 5 mm to 20 mm treated to reduce acidity and add some nutrient.

Pots — Just big enough to hold the roots and with some extra drain holes.

Temperatures — Medium to warm. Not below 10°C for a few cool growing species, but 5°C warmer for most. Not above 30°C.

Watering — Tepid and rainwater if possible. Water only when the mix is nearly dry. Try to keep it just moist at all times.

Air Humidity — Moist atmosphere is ideal. Keep benches and floor wet.

Light and Shade — Fairly deep shading in summer, light in winter.

Feeding — Just very little; dilute applications in the summer.

Pests and Diseases — With good plant hygiene and a clean glasshouse there should be none.



## *Paphiopedilum charlesworthii*

### Paphiopedilum Feature

*Paphiopedilum charlesworthii* comes from both Bengal and Burma where it grows in limestone country at altitudes around 1500 metres.

Temperatures there are mild to cool, and humidity generally high. It is a smallish plant, leaf span about 30 cm, and the 7 or 8

burgundy shade. The petals and pouch are a greenish brown and the staminode pure white with a bright yellow central papillae. Altogether this is a very beautiful species and it is small wonder that it was eagerly sought by the hybridists after its intro-

duction, mainly because of the relative dominance of the narrow *charlesworthii* petals. Probably the most notable of its first-generation hybrids was *P. Bingleyense* whose other parent was the red primary hybrid *P. Harrisianum*. From *P.*



Grower: F. R. Askin

flowers are held singly on 15 cm stems. The most notable feature of the flowers is the large 'red' dorsal which can vary in colour among different specimens from pale rose to an almost

burgundy shade. The petals and pouch are a greenish brown and the staminode pure white with a bright yellow central papillae. Altogether this is a very beautiful species and it is small wonder that it was eagerly sought by the hybridists after its intro-

duction in the early 1890's. Sixty-six different crosses were registered up to January 1946, but only twelve since then, with few exceptions the *P. charlesworthii* hybrids were not persisted

## *Paphiopedilum delenatii*

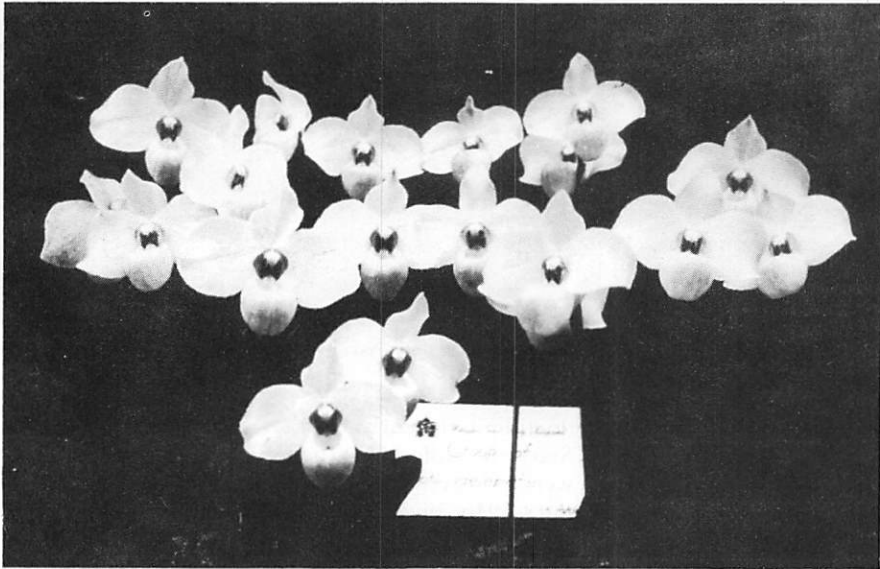
*Paphiopedilum delenatii* with its delicate shape, pink colouring and elusive scent is one of the most delightful paphiopedilum species. It is a member of the sub-genus *Brachypetalum* which also includes *P. bellatulum*, *concolour* and *niveum*. *P. delenatii* comes from North Vietnam, whence the first plants of it arrived in Europe about 70 years ago. It is no longer available from its native habitat, (some recent collections have been reported. *Ed.*), and it is likely that all plants presently available are nursery-raised seedlings—but none the worse for that, as they would have been bred from selected parents.

*P. delenatii* grows as a very compact plant with fairly short leaves beautifully tassellated in light and dark shades of green, and the undersides coloured deep reddish-brown. Its stem, usually from 150 to 200 mm long, is strong and upright. It blooms in spring and early summer and often bears two flowers on a stem. They are notable for their pink colouration and rounded segments, particularly the petals which are often almost circular in outline, a characteristic much sought after though somewhat elusive in breeding programmes. Although many hybrids have been formed with *P. delenatii* as a partner it is questionable

### Paphiopedilum Feature

whether any of them is more beautiful than the species itself which is certainly one of the gems of the orchid world.

*P. delenatii* used to be considered difficult to grow, but given a moist, buoyant and warm atmosphere between 15 and 25°C, good light—but not direct sunlight except in winter, it will flourish in a free-draining bark mix if this is kept moist at all times, never soggy, nor bone dry. Under favourable conditions a plant will produce multiple growths and flower regularly and generously. ◀



Grower: F. R. Askin

## *Paphiopedilum bellatulum*

*Paph. bellatulum* a native of Burma and Thailand, is one of the brachypetalum sub-genus whose membership includes also *Paphs. godfroyae*, *concolor*, *niveum* and *delenatii*. All of them, and *P. bellatulum* in particular, have well-rounded flowers with broad petals which sometimes overlap beneath the pouch. The flowers of these two are carried on very short stems so that they often appear to nestle in the foliage. *P. bellatulum* is basically white to cream in colour, with all parts closely speckled with maroon dots. The speckling is finer on the pouch, both outside and inside, than on the petals and dorsal, and

finer still on the staminode. The leaves are attractively tassellated in shades of light and darker green on the upper surfaces, and are uniformly purple on the undersides.

*P. bellatulum* is a particularly important species in breeding, it being responsible more than any other for the round shape of modern hybrids. There is a rare white form of *P. bellatulum* which, with *P. niveum*, produced the primary hybrid *P. Psyche*. This is one of the forebears of the famous *P. F.C. Puddle*, the progenitor of most of the white paphiopedilums.

### Paphiopedilum Feature

In its native state *P. bellatulum* is often found growing in crevices in hilly limestone country. In cultivation it likes warm humid conditions in good light but well shaded from direct sunlight. Temperatures should not go below 15°C. The usual bark-based mix suits it well, and the addition of limestone chips seems to be appreciated. The mix must be free draining and should be kept moist at all times.

Given a warm situation this is an easy plant to grow, and it will grace any collection. ◀



*Paphiopedilum bellatulum*

Grower: F. R. Askin

Photo: Ann McSweeney

# Paphiopedilum Cultural Groupings

*P. C. Tomlinson*

The 1990 13th World Orchid Conference is coming up soon in Auckland.

At that event many people will be tempted to purchase and grow new orchids in their collections. Paphiopedilums can be very broadly grouped with regard to their cultural requirements, and the following may assist readers in the selection of the most appropriate plants for their collections.

In *very broad terms* the following groupings amongst the paphiopedilums can be made:—

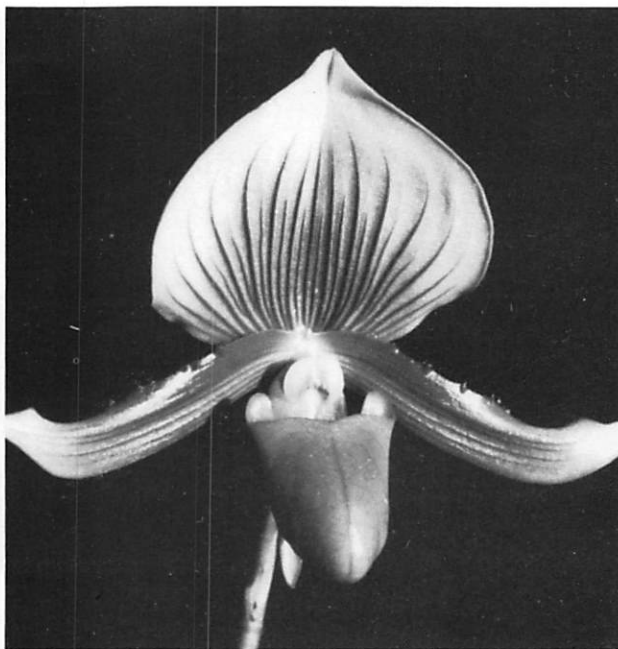
a. SINGLE FLOWERED GREEN LEAVED species and hybrids such as *Paphiopedilum insigne*, *P. spicerianum*, *P. hirsutissimum* and *P. Lceanum*, are easily grown. No supplementary heat is normally required, although very cold conditions must be avoided. It is plants from this group that are generally recommended for new growers, or those with limited growing space or facilities.

b. MOTTLED LEAVED species and hybrids, including *P. concolor*, *P. bellatulum*, (refer associated article), and *P. Maudiae*, usually with single flowered inflorescences, require some additional warmth as compared to the above.



*P. hirsutissimum*, a cooler growing single flowered green leaved species.  
Grower: Burnham Nurseries U.K.

*P. Maudiae*, a warm growing hybrid.



## Paphiopedilum Feature

This is most easily provided in the house or small glasshouse by way of a heat-board or propagating bed.

As with all rules there are always exceptions, and the widely grown mottled leaved species *P. venustum* grows naturally in close proximity with the plain green leaved *P. insigne* of the first group, and like that species prefers cooler conditions as compared to the other mottled leaved varieties.

c. GREEN LEAVED SPECIES HAVING MULTIFLOWERED INFLORESCENCES, the individual flowers which open in succession or together generally require more heat, like their mottled leaved cousins, although with perhaps even higher temperatures. Generally these are larger growing plants than found in either of the other two groups.

Hybrids will generally conform to the above groupings. Crosses between plants in two groups will generally require the average of conditions appropriate for the constituent species. ◀

### Production Problem . . .

In the last issue of *Orchids* in New Zealand (Vol. 15 No. 6) a few copies with out-of-register colour printing escaped production control. If you have a copy like this and wish for it to be replaced, contact the distributor. Mr T. Nicholls, P.O. Box 365, Taupo.



*P. St. Swithin* is a typical example of a plant from this group.  
Grower: the late Frank Askin

### Cover photo: *P. St. Swithin*

This plant, grown by the late Frank Askin of Wellington is a fine example of his growing expertise. A similar plant was awarded Reserve Champion at the Second International Orchid Conference, held in Wellington in 1985.

This hybrid has as one of its parents *P. rothschildianum*. The paphiopedilums are pollinated by insects, the flowers acting as efficient insect traps. In a recent study of that species in its native habitat on Mount Kinabalu, John Atwood of the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens of Florida United States of America, chanced to discover the insect pollinator involved, something that has been successfully done for very few paphio-

pedilums. The pollinating insect was found to be a hoverfly. This insect was attracted to the staminode, which is covered by many short, white hairs. These apparently resemble the eggs of aphids, which are normal food of the fly larvae. The hoverfly lays its eggs among the hairs. The flies often slip off the staminode and fall into the pouch of the orchid flower, which is directly beneath. The pouch has slippery sides and the only way of escape for the insect is to climb the hairy back wall of the pouch to emerge at the base of the column, picking up pollen as it passes. Successful pollination occurs when the insect repeats the process on another flower. ◀

# Orchid Ramblings

**T**HIS IDEAL glasshouse I was talking about has several different areas, each with a different function. There are the cool, intermediate, and warm sections, each large enough to hold all the plants you would ever want to grow. To simplify matters for the hobby grower, all orchids are deemed to grow in one of three temperature ranges — *cool* being a minimum of 10°C, *intermediate* being about 14°C, and *warm* about 18°C.

These are absolute minimums reached in the middle of the coldest night in winter, and during warmer weather the minimum temperature overnight would be higher. Daytime temperatures will be higher still, as we expect the sun to warm the glasshouse all year round. It seems that plant growth slows down as temperatures get above 30°C, although some warm growing orchids can handle up to 35 or 40°C without frying up. A good safe maximum is 25°C, which gets good growth without any danger of killing the plant.

Then there is the flowering area, kept cooler and drier than the growing areas, and shaded to prevent the colours from fading. This area can be set up to display the flowers to best advantage, it should have a chair so that you can sit there and look at your flowers, a radio so that you can listen to sport all day, and perhaps even a television so that you can watch the sport, and look at your flowers when the blasted adverts are on. Make sure the chair is made out of wood, as fabrics rot

*Bob McCulloch describes his ideal glasshouse in this further article of his series describing his orchid growing experience.*

away quickly in the humidity of a glasshouse. Now and again you will want to bring a plant into your home to give the place a bit of a lift, but generally con-

ditions in a home are not good for orchids. The humidity is very low, and they shouldn't be kept there longer than a few days. I usually bring the latest flowers in at the weekend so that the family and visitors can admire them, and then return them on Sunday evening.

Flowers last longer if the plant is kept drier than usual, perhaps because flowering is usually followed by a resting period before new growth starts, and in the natural habitats of species



*Cattleya Bonnie Houck*

Allow cattleya flowers to 'set' before cutting to ensure their long life.  
Grower — J. Crowe

the amount of rain would be less at this time. With the hybrids we now grow, it is quite usual for new growths to appear even before the flowers open, and it is sometimes a puzzle to know whether to favour the flowers or keep watering and feeding to encourage the growths. A good compromise is to leave the spike on the plant for a week or so after the last flower opens, then remove the

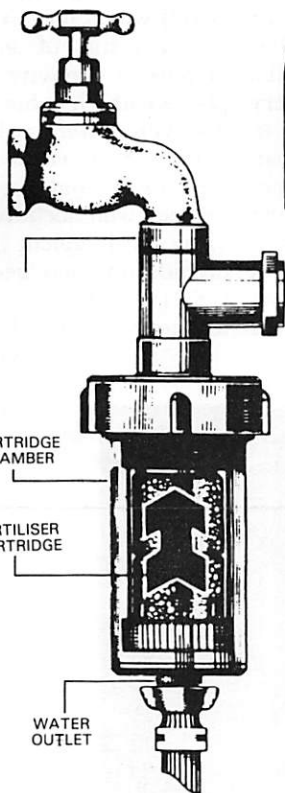
spike and put it in a vase. It's particularly important with cattleyas to let the flowers 'set'. If the spike is removed too soon then the flowers will fade very quickly. And be sure to break spikes off rather than cutting them, to prevent virus spreading. Don't get any sap on your hands which could be passed on to the next plant you break a spike from — that is an ideal way to pass on virus.

From what I have read, it appears that the viruses (viri?) which infect orchids are a result of growing orchids in captivity, as no plants with virus have been discovered in the wild. (Or perhaps they all died!) On the other hand there are people who believe that virus is incipient in all orchids, and only needs the right (wrong) set of conditions to show up. Whatever, there is a lot of virus in



*Cymbidium Touchstone 'Mahogany'*

“Break spikes off rather than cutting them to prevent the spread of virus”.



# CHAMPION fert·mat<sup>®</sup>

## FERTILISER DISPENSER

The ideal addition to your orchid collection.

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

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

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.

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

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

## AUSTRALASIAN IMPORTS LTD.

P.O. Box 53-034  
Auckland Airport

Phone 275-4963



New Zealand and every care should be taken to prevent its spread. I have just taken a large cattleya to the tip, plant, pot, mix and label. It grew beautifully but last year the flowers were streaked. I kept it separate as this can sometimes be caused by poor culture, but this year it didn't grow so well and the only two flowers to open were badly streaked, so out it went.

Anyway, remove the spikes and put them in your home, and treat the plants as they require—if new growths are showing then put them with the non-flowering ones and let them get on with next year's bulbs, and if they look a bit quiet and tired, then put them in the next area of your glasshouse, which is for recuperating plants. There are those which have just flowered, and those which have been sick, or just repotted. They all need a place where they can gather breath, have a think about things, and generally get themselves sorted out. This area will have low light, medium temperatures and humidity, and the plants won't be watered or fed. Don't be concerned about them wasting away, the resilience of an orchid is amazing—if you or I are sick, we don't need food, an orchid in the same condition doesn't need water. Last summer I removed all the plants from the glasshouse and put them outside. Left behind were a few backbulbs and some bits

and pieces which were dead or dying. The house was dry as a bone for three months and temperatures were in the forties on hot days, yet when I went back into the glasshouse to tidy it up before moving all the plants back again, there were green leaves on all those abandoned plants. I have just looked in there now, and a Jewel orchid which has now been without water for nearly a year has bright new leaves. I'm going to ignore it this time, last year I took it out and treated it well, and all the leaves fell off.

The next area is for repotting, and you can also use this as a storage area for pots, mix, sprays etc. It needs a large bench at a comfortable height, containers for the damp mix and a bin for the old mix and dead roots. It would be nice if it had a sink with running water so that you can clean pots and wash mix from roots. This area doesn't need to be in the glasshouse, it can be in the garage or washhouse, or even be a separate shed, as long as everything is in one place. There is nothing worse than running out of something when you are repotting, and having to go and search for it.

By now you will be thinking that you need about half an acre for your glasshouse, and that's about right, for you also need an outside growing area for cymbidium, dendrobiums,

and other plants which appreciate being outside over the summer months. This area can be covered with shadecloth spread over a light framework — no particular strength is needed. I have seen lengths of plastic conduit used for this, with the ends placed in tin cans sunk in the ground and the conduit bent in an inverted U shape, like a tunnel house.

Having got all your glasshouse areas sorted out, you are now faced with the problem of controlling the climate in each area. To do this properly virtually demands that you have electricrickery in the glasshouse, and there is a choice of two systems, either a low-voltage system, or the normal mains voltage, both of which should be installed by an electrician. For safety it is advisable to fit an isolating transformer if you decide on the mains voltage. This will protect you against a shock if a fault occurs. The low-voltage system uses a transformer anyway, and the voltage is too low to give you a shock. Don't be tempted to save money by doing the wiring yourself, water and electricity don't mix well and if you get caught in the middle then you could be on your way to the great glasshouse in the sky sooner than you expected. ◀

# Cogito's Diary

ISN'T IT NICE to be wanted? Cogito was hopeful that the change of Editors would afford him a holiday. Not so. A telephone call from Wellington just before Christmas, changed all that.

## Disa Update

Disas are easy to grow and flower. Yet, time and again when asking friends and acquaintances how their disas are doing the reply is — “it died”, or “it keeled over”, and “it rotted off”. Also heard is “I cannot grow them”, and that seems to be that. To allay some of these negative ideas, I wish

*Cogito thought he had finished last month. Bill Fransen has agreed to continue with his series, however, for the next few issues.*



*Disa uniflora* Grower: P. C. Tomlinson



to stress what I regard as the most important factors to their successful culture.

Disa roots, shoots and growths are not easily affected by rots of any nature. The only reasons for rot to occur are stale conditions around the roots and lack of ventilation around the plant. I avoid the use of sand, peat, moss, etc. and provide ample ventilation all round. Temperatures between 10 and 20°C are the optimum but are tolerated down to 0°C or up to 30°C.

A potting mixture that is open but will retain moisture better than most other media is one of fine bark and pumice, or fine bark and vermiculite, or fine bark and polystyrene. All the materials that are used should pass through a 6 mm sieve and have had the fines washed out through a kitchen sieve. When boiled this medium can be used for sowing disa seeds on, as well as for planting both small and big plants in. There are other suitable mixes but I have convinced myself that they should all be relatively open like the

above. This type of medium is also very suitable for most other terrestrial orchids.

The most common cause of disa failure is over-feeding. Every time that I have had something go wrong with disas I came to realize that it was because they were standing below the drip-line of hanging plants that were receiving full strength feeding (still relatively weak). They just turn yellow and pine away. One can also easily apply normal strength fertilizer to disas when other nearby plants require this, as a routine follow on sort of thing. Don't be tempted, be careful! Fill your normal strength container with clean water once it is only quarter full and then proceed to feed your disas, at every watering if you like. This season I have frequently used diluted liquid cow manure and it appears that the plants like it.

A good reason to group disas together is that they are then more easily given the same treatment. Spray damage occurs very easily. I have not yet killed any plants that way but have had whole batches turn spotty. They are very sensitive to most chemicals and disfigure easily. When all plants are situated in one group they are easier to avoid when spraying surrounding plants.

Correct light levels are as important to disas as for any other plants. Young plants should receive lower light levels. Adult plants

about 50 to 70 %. The plants will tell you by the colour of their leaves. At the moment I have approximately 50 inflorescences at or near flowering. The foliage on these plants is fairly light but the stems still incline towards the main light source, north.

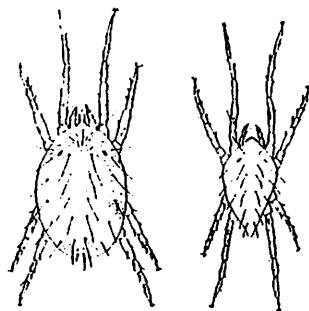
During the hot weather I daily damp down the gravel of the greenhouse path. This keeps up the relative air humidity and suits disas as well as most other orchids. The watering of disas may be done every time you walk past them, as long as the rooting medium stays nicely moist. When plants are kept moist and cool at the roots they can handle high temperatures much better. Most of the 50 odd seedlings of my 1988 sowing are so placed that the daily damping down spray wets them. Most are now sending up side shoots and I expect most of them to flower approximately two and a half years from sowing.

### Creepy Crawlies and other Bad Beasties

Every year, by about mid-summer I notice a slight silvering on the underside of the leaves of some young cymbidium plants. Mites are the culprits. This is in spite of several preventative sprayings given since early spring. The small cymbidium plants are kept in the greenhouse where they receive special attention. Mites simply delight in their succulent taste

and are devilishly hard to keep at bay. The older plants are in the back of the garden and are more easily kept clean of mites. Even amongst the older plants there are certain clones which are more attractive to mites. I call these my 'indicator' plants, because they are the first on which I will find mites when they are around.

If you have never seen spider (or two spotted) mite, and you wonder what they look like, try the following. Look on the under-side of your young cymbidium plants. If you see any shiny silvery surfaces you've got mite, or rather your plants have. If you need glasses to read this you will never see the crawling miscreants. Get out your best magnifying glass and you'll soon discover what they look like. In advanced cases



Adult female (left) and male Twospotted (spider) Mites — highly enlarged.

of damage, brown fungal spots will have developed where fungi have invaded the sites where the mites punctured the leaf to suck sap. Some people wrongly think that such plants are virused.

Mites and many other baddies like scale, green aphids, woolly aphids, whitefly, etc. have a predilection for certain plants. These are the indicator plants which occur in every collection. Young cymbidium plants are irresistible to mites. They'll find them no matter what. Mites are so small and light that they come sailing in on the wind. There is a gardenia plant just inside my greenhouse door which will have mite on it before anything else. Consequently it gets sprayed more than anything else. It is the kind of indicator plant that keeps you on your toes. As long as your indicator plants are examined regularly and are not allowed to become 'carrier' plants, all is well. Sometimes I spot spray the indicator plant plus a few surrounding plants. The areas of the greenhouse which are warmest are also more prone to mite attacks. One has to maintain vigilance.

Plants infested with woolly aphids usually are indicator plants or at least remain so for quite some time because the woolly aphids are so hard to shake off. I'm sure that some people throw away woolly aphid infested

plants in disgust because every time they think that they've overcome them they rear up their ugly woolly heads when least expected. That goes for mites too. The only remedy is to spray again and again to catch all successive hatchings and lifecycles as soon as they appear and before they manage to again reproduce. The warmer the weather, the quicker that the lifecycle is completed. In warm weather mites may lay eggs within 3 to 4 days from hatching themselves. That means that with most sprays that time interval would be applied as well, if an infestation is to be overcome successfully.

Commercial growers have the jump on us when it comes to the use of really effective sprays, and so do the mites! It is absolutely marvelous to live in Godzone and not to be overpopulated. One of the less desirable side-effects is that effective miticides and other good sprays are not broken down into hobby lots. Even the effort of thinking about it is a major charge against the product by some manufacturers or importers. It does not pay because there just ain't enough of us to make it really worth their greedy while. Some miticides are sold in hobby lots but most of them are ineffective after a short time because the mites learn to live with them. Now if you are willing to buy kilo or litre lots or more you have a chance of becoming more

successful. There is another angle in that some of the most effective sprays are also the most poisonous and dangerous to use. Some are available only to special licence holders. Effective and relatively safe sprays are available. Ask for advice from your local commercial growers.

The safeguards and directions given on the packages should be followed. Don't spray when there is a strong wind blowing. Stand upwind of any gentle air current so that clothes and skin don't get contaminated. I use a 5 litre garden sprayer with a hose and a 90 cm long hand held lance. Because mites live on the under-side of leaves the spray nozzle should point upwards. I keep bringing the lance up from between the pots and through the leaves. This action will nicely cover the under-side of the leaves with spray.

Thin leafed dendrobiums are another preferred mite fodder. A *Den. fairchildii* is another of my 'indicator' plants. I'm afraid that my vigilance lags a bit at times. Recently some of the leaves were yellowing. The damage and the vandals were in evidence. When whole plants get mite damaged (or woolly aphid, or scale, etc.) it can take a plant a full year or more to get over it. Please keep your guard up! ◀

# Norm Porter Orchids

**1990 CATALOGUE NOW AVAILABLE**

*featuring:*

- ★ 26 New Cymbidium Varieties
- ★ Cymbidium Mericlones Seedlings & Flowering plants
- ★ Cymbidiums in Spike
- ★ Scented Cymbidiums
- ★ Flasks of Seedlings & Mericlones
- ★ Community Pots
- ★ Back Bulb Propagations
- ★ Cattleyas Young to Flowering size plants
- ★ Phalaenopsis Young to Flowering size plants
- ★ Paphiopedilum Young to Flowering size plants
- ★ Prime Orchid Mix
- ★ Microfeed 2.1.2 and 2.1.4
- ★ Other Genera
- ★ Export Varieties for Commercial growers

All plants sent in pots per Newmans or NZR Bus  
Depot to Door Service  
Anywhere in New Zealand

All prices include GST

Send to—

**NORM PORTER**

“CYMBIDIUM ORCHID SPECIALIST”

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

Phone (058) 36-977

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

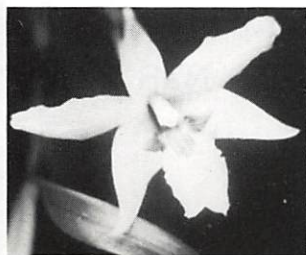
During the flowering season, May-November, the Nursery is Open  
Sundays and Public Holidays



# A Reassessment of New Zealand's Native Orchids

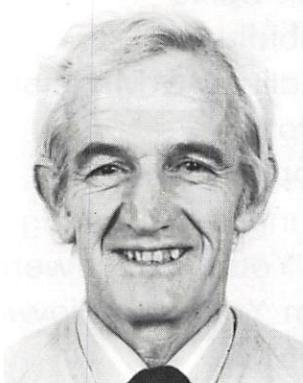
THE 'Flora of New Zealand' Volume 2, published in 1970, is generally regarded by orchid enthusiasts as the standard reference work for the names, descriptions, and whereabouts of our native orchids. In this book, with the help of Bruce Irwin's drawings, the late Lucy Moore accounted for 21 genera and 73 species and varieties of orchids native to New Zealand. Of these, one genus (*Aporostylis*) and 38 species (52%) were considered to be endemic or restricted to New Zealand, while 20 genera and 35 species (48%) were thought to be shared with other countries, mainly Australia.

Current work on native orchids reveals a dramatic shift in these statistics. At present, 24 genera and about 100 species and varieties are recognised, and of these about 60 are endemic to New Zealand. At least 18 native orchids, possibly more, are unnamed and undescribed, and there is a strong probability that several well known species have not been placed in the correct genus, for example, *Dendrobium cunninghamii*.



*Dendrobium cunninghamii*

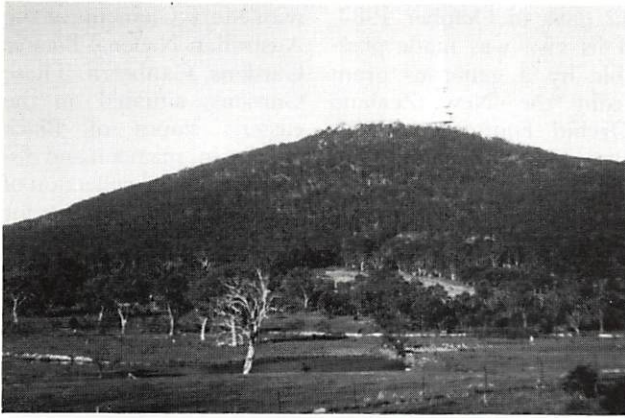
Clearly, what we now face is a major revision of native orchids. This in turn will lead to an upheaval in orchid names. Why are we in this predicament? Firstly, most of our native orchids



**In 1987,  
The New Zealand  
Orchid Foundation  
Trust Board financed  
Brian Molloy's trip to  
Australia to further his  
study of our native  
orchid heritage.  
We publish part  
of his report arising  
from this trip.**

were described, named, and classified last century. Since that time our knowledge of orchids in Australasia has increased tremendously, forcing a reassessment of many species and genera.

Secondly, the majority of type specimens determining the names we use are held in overseas institutions such as Kew and the British Museum. Until recently, these specimens were not examined systematically and critically to determine whether or not we were applying the correct names to our species. For example, we now know, through the work of Mark Clements of Canberra, that the type specimen to which the name *Corybas rivularis* is permanently attached, is not the orchid we have known for years by this name, but the one described much later as *Corybas orbiculatus*. Thus, in accordance with the *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature*, we are obliged to use the name *Corybas rivularis* for the orchid formerly known as *Corybas orbiculatus*, and in this particular case, as no earlier name is available, erect a new one for the orchid previously thought to be *Corybas rivularis*. Mark Clements and Dan Hatch have duly named this orchid *Corybas acuminatus*, thereby



Black Mountain, Canberra; habitat of 44 species of Australian terrestrial orchids.

resolving this problem. This case emphasises the need to examine all the type specimens of species described from early New Zealand material; a procedure called typification.

Thirdly, many of the names assigned to our orchids are based on those first applied to Australian genera and species, for example, *Pterostylis banksii* and *Thelymitra pauciflora*. In a few cases the reverse situation applies and generic and specific names in use in Australia are based on descriptions of New Zealand orchids, for example, *Adenochilus gracilis* and *Caladenia lyallii*. Therefore, there is an equal need to typify Australian orchid names assigned to New Zealand species. In addition, workers in both countries must be sure that they are not using the same name for different species, or different names for the same species. Apart from the joint efforts of Dan Hatch (NZ) and Herman Rupp

(Australia) in the 1940's, there has been no serious attempt to address this very important 'trans-Tasman' issue.

Finally, and of vital interest to orchid lovers in New Zealand and Australia, there is the realisation that in both countries there are more orchid species than we

thought. A few of these have been known for some time and have been submerged with other species under existing names; others are completely new to science and have no name at all. And in New Zealand, 'new arrivals' from Australia, derived from wind-borne seed, are reported from time to time. Orchid enthusiasts on both sides of the Tasman have contributed in many ways to these new discoveries, and there is a notable revival of interest in orchid distribution, ecology, conservation, pollination biology, and cultivation.

It should be clear from what I have said so far, that a revision of New Zealand orchids is sorely needed and is best done in collaboration with our Australian counterparts. With this in



Mark Clements (right) examines a terrestrial orchid with Ron Tunstall, a well known orchid enthusiast, Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra.

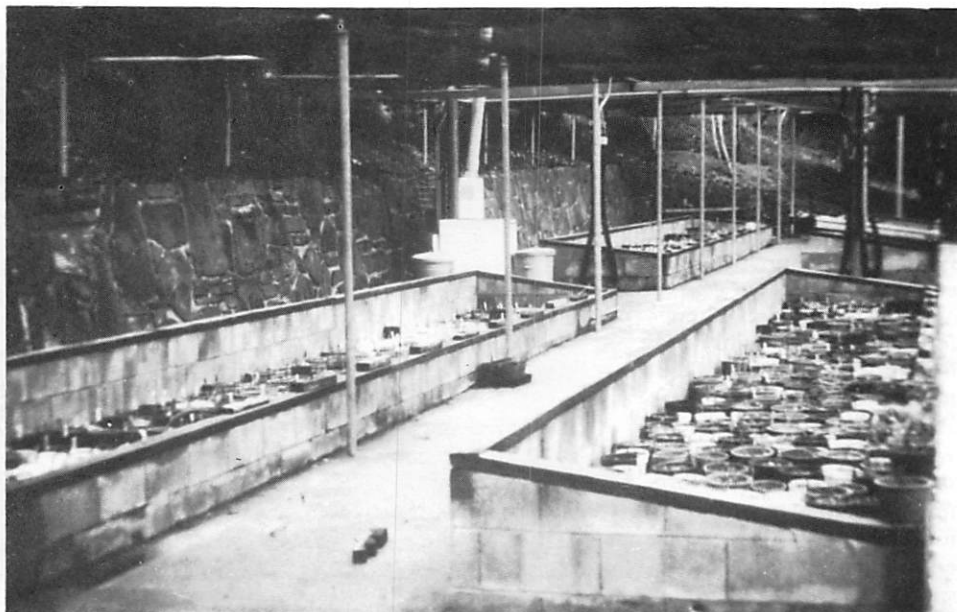
mind I have joined forces with Dan Hatch and Mark Clements in the first stage of a definitive checklist of New Zealand orchids. In this list we will account for all the names used in the past for our native orchids, and incorporate new names and corrections. Dan Hatch, as most readers will know, has contributed greatly to our knowledge of New Zealand orchids. Mark Clements is a leading authority on Australian orchids, and compiled a 'Preliminary Checklist of Australian Orchidaceae' in 1982. A revised edition, a 'Catalogue of Australian Orchidaceae' should be available soon.

Armed with a draft checklist, I visited Australia for

12 days in October 1987. This visit was made possible by a generous grant from the New Zealand Orchid Foundation Trust Board. My main aim was to discuss the draft in detail with Mark Clements at the Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra. At the same time I took the opportunity to see the orchid research of the Botany Department at Melbourne University, and to study herbarium specimens and live material of Australian orchids in Victoria and New South Wales. A full account of this visit is lodged with the New Zealand Orchid Foundation Trust Board.

The highlight of this visit was the seven days spent

with Mark Clements at the Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra. These Gardens, situated on the eastern slopes of Black Mountain, maintain and display a national collection of Australian native plants for scientific study, conservation, and public education and enjoyment. An extensive herbarium is also maintained, and the live and herbarium collections of native orchids are unsurpassed in Australia. A research section undertakes a wide range of horticulture and botanical studies and I was particularly impressed with the scope of orchid projects. This unit attracts funds from the Nell and Herman Slade Trust and the Orchid Foundation of Australia.



Terrestrial orchid collection, Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra.





*Caladmia lyalii*  
(Cooper D. NZ Native Orchids.  
A Field Guide.)

My session with Mark Clements was fundamental to the compilation of the New Zealand orchid checklist. His knowledge of type specimens and nomenclature proved invaluable, and after several days, and nights, of intensive study and discussion we were able to resolve the status and names of most New Zealand orchids. Needless to say, full agreement was not reached in every case and several orchids require further study. And there is

still critical work to be done on type specimens overseas, especially those covering our largest orchid genera, *Pterostylis*, *Thelymitra*, and *Corybas*.

This visit strengthened my belief that orchid specialists in New Zealand and Australia must work together, and not in isolation, since we share so many species in common. Furthermore, no amount of letter writing can equal the productivity achieved by the free exchange of visits and a 'hands on' approach to live orchids, both in the wild and in cultivation. When I arrived in Canberra the draft checklist put together with Dan Hatch looked in pretty good shape. By the time I left the modified version hardly resembled the original. Since my return

both Dan and I, with the help of various orchid enthusiasts throughout the country, and Mark Clements, have extended the coverage of the checklist which is now in its final stages of preparation. In due course this checklist will be submitted for publication in New Zealand. It will not be the last word on New Zealand orchids. As I have already indicated, there is still a great deal of work required to complete a revision of New Zealand orchids. ◀

I am grateful to the New Zealand Orchid Foundation Trust Board for supporting this research, and to my colleagues and orchid enthusiasts on both sides of the Tasman who have contributed in so many ways.

Botany Division, DSIR  
Lincoln

*1990 and the start of a new decade. Just the time for those New Year Resolutions.*

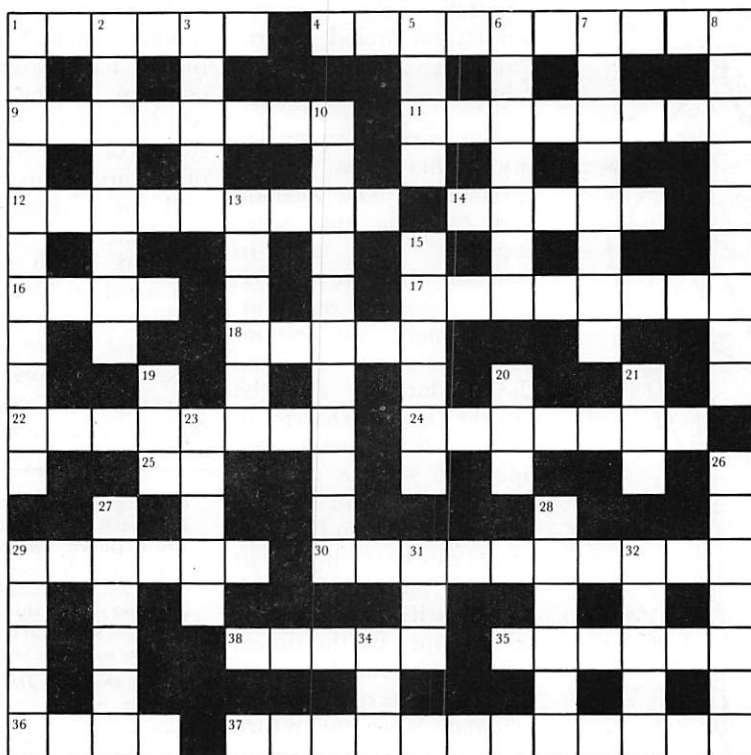
## For Orchid Growers

1. Get up half an hour earlier in order to —
2. Spend more time with the orchids — in order to
3. Get them all to live — in order to
4. Get them all to flower — in order to
5. Have corsages for all dinners and other social events — in order to
6. Become famous for the beauty of my orchids — in order to
7. Give me fresh inspiration to work harder to earn more — in order to
8. Purchase/scrounge/swap more orchid plants — in order to
9. Be able to grow more varieties of orchids shown in orchid books — in order to
10. Increase my collection — in order to
11. Build on my glasshouse/front porch/back garden to provide more room for my orchids — in order to

Go back to any of the numbers above.

# Test Your I.Q.

Answer in next issue.



## Across

1. Founding President O.C.N.Z.
4. Seldom flowers
9. Large orchid family
11. Multi orchid group
12. Weather condition
14. Uneven
16. Orchid family
17. Catasetum
18. Proprietor
22. Wavy
24. Uneven colour in flower
25. Yes (anat.)
29. Author first name
30. Multi orchid family
33. Smooth bark tree
35. Part of flower
36. Old measurement
37. Orchid family

## Down

1. Lots of flowers
2. Orchid plant family
3. Plants production
5. Meat
6. Seed case
7. Shopkeeper
8. Orchid plant family
10. Orchid plant family
13. Greenhouse plants
15. Sudden stop end of
19. Bright plants need lot of
20. Multic plant (abbrev.)
21. Orchid plants grown in this bark
23. Water lily
26. Mini cym.
27. This what it's all about
28. Study of
29. Forest tree
31. Densely haired
32. Part of flower
34. Young bear or fox

# Australian Orchid Review

14 McGill Street, Lewisham, Sydney NSW Australia 2049  
Telephone (02) 560 6166 Fax (02) 560 6677

**NOW SIX ISSUES PER YEAR!**

**NEW SIZE... NEW FORMAT... NEW EDITOR**

New Zealand (Sea Mail) Two Years \$NZ75 or \$A64  
One Year \$NZ41 or \$A34

New Zealand (Air Mail) Two Years \$NZ94 or \$A79  
One Year \$NZ49 or \$A41

Single Copy Airmail US\$9.50

**NEW ZEALAND EXPORT  
GROWERS ORCHID ASSN. INC**

**NZ E.G.O.**

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

**The Secretary  
Mrs J. Bersma  
Jesmond Road, Drury,  
South Auckland.**

## **TWIN OAKS BOOKS**

P.O. Box 20940  
Greenfield, Wisconsin 53220  
U.S.A.

**MASTERCARD AND VISA**

## **ORCHID BOOKS**

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

Quality  
**Mericlones & Seedlings**

in mini flasks

\*\*\*\*\*

*Send for catalogue to:*

**JUNGLE GEMS INC.,**  
300 Edgewood Road,  
Edgewood, MD, U.S.A. 21040.

## **CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS**

Just released from quarantine – Flowering sized Tillandsia's Air Plants – Send S.A.E. for free list. House of orchids, 145 Manuku road, Glenfield, Auckland.

**LAURELDALE ORCHIDS** specialising in • Cattleyas • Equitant/Oncidiums • Dendrobiums, (Mericlones and Seedlings). For price list please send S.A.E. to Laureldale Orchids, 26 Nelson Street, Blenheim. Phone (057) 86-414.

# PIN PRANKS!

**I**N 1980 I took a group of orchid lovers to New Zealand to attend the 1st New Zealand International Orchid Conference held in Auckland, with a tour of the country after the Conference. At the Show venue, I noticed a very frantic and fascinating scramble exchanging orchid society lapel pins. ('Down under' they are referred to as badges).

I found that it apparently was a well organized activity and has been going on for quite some time in Australia and New Zealand. They seemed to be spending a lot of time and energy searching out these lapel pins and trading partners. In fact advance information I have from the 13th World Orchid Conference to be held this year in Auckland, is that a special area is to be set aside for the trading of pins, stamps and other orchid artifacts.

Unfortunately I was unable to take part in this hobby as our local San Diego County Orchid Society did not have a lapel pin at that time. Previously we only had name plates. By 1985 when I led another group to Wellington for the 2nd New Zealand International Orchid Conference several of us had made sure that the lack of pins from the San Diego County Orchid Society had been rectified. So with a fistful of 50 of our pins, I was well 'armed' to take part in the pin swapping mania.

*Be different.  
Join the new elite!  
It may be spreading  
like AIDS, but  
it's not deadly,  
unless you die  
from a heart attack  
from carrying  
the weight of all  
those badges.*

While at the Wellington Show I noticed a young fellow from Invercargill had quite an impressive display of pins. He had a large world map in a display board with his collection of pins mounted around the edge of the map with strings leading from the pins to their town site on the map. Before we left the Conference in Wellington to continue our tour of

'Kiwi'land, I took stock of my booty and found I had done quite well on my first foray into pin collecting. I had 'captured' 31 New Zealand pins and surprisingly, 8 from Australia.

In October 1986, I launched a letter writing campaign to New Zealand and Australia in pursuit of the many missing badges needed for my collection. Very shortly, I had all that were available from New Zealand, so turned my main effort westward. Then found I had a formidable task ahead of me with over 200 orchid societies in Australia. Undaunted I plunged ahead posting letters to many orchid societies and slowly, but surely, the airmail letter packets started coming in with pins enclosed for a trade for one from our local society. This letter writing campaign gave excellent results as almost all my letters were answered; even if the society did not have a pin, they usually responded to let me know that they did not have one. One of the

pleasant side effects of this letter writing is some very excellent new friendships. While attending Orchid Expo'88 in Caloundra, Australia last year, I was fortunate enough to meet some of my letter writing-trading partners and was even invited to spend a couple of days in Hervey Bay at the home of Brian and Gloria Pearce. There are now six regular trading partners: four in Australia, one in New Zealand, and one in England. Australia is proving to be a real gold mine for these very desirable pins. To date I have collected 144 from just Australia.

Originally I started pinning these badges on a baseball type cap that I happened to be wearing at the New Zealand Conference. Very soon I found out I was running out of space. Then I had a lady create a vest (waistcoat 'Down Under') for me and have since then been pinning them on it. The front is now covered and they are now halfway across the back. The 12th World Orchid Conference in Tokyo in 1987 saw the debut of my vest. Because of this I met two very avid pin collectors. They are two of the above mentioned trading partners: Jim Dench of New Zealand and Harry Wilshaw of England. Harry has over 300 pins in his collection, while Jim is closely pushing the same figure. At the 12th World Orchid Con-

ference I was able to add 35 pins to my collection. These came from New Zealand, Australia, England, Canada, South Africa and even 8 from the U.S.A. There is a real dearth of pins up here in the U.S. considering the large number of societies we have here, though there seems to be a trend to change this. So far I have located 16 of them, mostly from California and Florida.

This is proving to be a very fascinating new hobby for me. Benefits deriving from this 'orchid collecting' activity, include not having to worry about a schedule to water and feed them or watch out for crown rot! The colours and designs make a very interesting display. I have worn my waistcoat to the 12th W.O.C. in Tokyo, Orchid Expo'88 at Caloundra, 11th Australian Conference, 1st Canadian Orchid Congress in Vancouver, and the 32nd and 33rd Eastern Orchid Congresses here in the U.S. The waistcoat is quite an eye-catcher, besides getting quite weighty, which in the long run does attract attention, which in turn leads to trading of more badges. With almost 3½ years of diligently seeking out these badges, I have just recently reached the 270 mark.

After the banquet in the Sydney Opera House for the 11th Australian Orchid

Conference, five avid pin collectors got together (2 from New Zealand, 2 from Australia and myself) and discussed the possible formation of a Badge Collector's Club. It seemed feasible and needed, so we asked Barry Collins to serve as the General Secretary to launch our new club. He readily agreed to take on the task. Things seem to be slowly, but surely, getting underway across the Tasman Sea, getting it organised. There have been over 100 inquiries from Australia where all this madness apparently originated. Our first major task is trying to locate all the societies up here in the U.S. that have issued pins for listing in our inventory, plus add one of them to my collection. For further information, collectors can send a stamped self-addressed envelope to either:

*Heather Crofskey,  
45 Milan Road,  
Papatoetoe, Auckland*

or

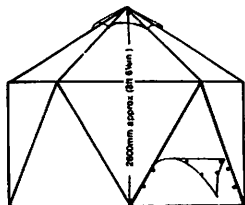
*Jim Dench  
428 Botanical Road,  
Palmerston North.*

They are the two New Zealand representatives who helped found our club. We all look forward to hearing from you. ◀

*Ben Hardy  
9443 E. Heaney Circle  
Santee, California  
92071, U.S.A.*

# Polygro geodesic Greenhouse

DELIVERED ANYWHERE IN N.Z.



**ONLY  
\$645**

## PROTECT PRECIOUS ORCHIDS

- ★ Shade Cloth Options also available.
- ★ Send for our FREE Brochure  
*For further details contact:*



**TE PARI PRODUCTS LTD.**

P.O. Box 9102, Palmerston North

Phone: (063) 75-605

# Orchids

IN NEW ZEALAND



## MONSTER WOC EDITION

Available to all registrants,  
general public and 2000 subscribers.

Print run 6000.

Early September 1990

Advertisement space now for sale

Do you want to sell  
and/or support the Conference

Contact Advertising Manager

W. J. Deed

16 Bowen Street, Waiuku

Ph: (085) 57-133 Fax (085) 59-125

**EXCLUSIVE  
RELEASE**

By top Japanese breeders

## Miniature & Compact, Dendrobium, Nobile Hybrids

Grow to 12" with full size blooms — Cool growing — Flowering size

- ★ Merlin Flake x Adele Fortesque 'Louise' — very nice whites
- ★ Merlin Flake x Hamburian Gold 'Eve' — white & gold
- ★ Snowflake x Duo — pretty light mauve

702 Intense x 878 Light Pink — light pinks to purples

703 Lemon Eye x 803 Precocious — pink tonings, lemon eye

703 Pinky x 803 Precocious — pink shades

703 Princess x 692 Florufest — whites through to reds

703 Princess x Malones — pastel pink

703 Princess x Oborozuki 'Yellow Bird' — yellow/purple

703 Princess x Seiko — white to lavender

703 White Ruffles x Christmas Chime — cream

703 Select x Adele Fortesque — cream/yellow, dark eye

★ smaller plants and may not flower this year

All \$7.50 +GST or 10 plants our selection \$60.00 +GST  
Door to Door \$8.50

**House of Orchids**  
Phone (09) 444-9771

145 Manuka Road, Glenfield  
Auckland 10



# Conference Update

## 13th World Orchid Conference 1990

The Conference Committee presents its latest update on this exciting forthcoming event. Readers and members of a local society can contact those clubs if they wish to purchase promotional items etc.

### REGISTRATION

Registrations from New Zealand are important to the success of the Conference. All Orchid Society Members will receive a personal information sheet with their Society Newsletter in February which explains the importance of your attendance and the benefits to you in being part of this world event.

Registration by March 31 1990 is the deadline date for lowest cost registration. After this, cost rises to account for increased administration and finance charges.

### CALL TO NEW ZEALAND

It may not be generally known that everyone, even the Planning Committee, pays their own way at World Orchid Conferences. Key programme speakers do not get free air fares and accommodation, or registration. Judges judging orchids register at their own cost for the privilege of judging orchids exhibited.

### PROMOTIONAL ITEMS

Car Shades are available with the 13th WOC dates and logo on the design at \$5.00 They are quite costly to send around the country by mail, but if any of your members are in the vicinity of Auckland they may be able to pick up sufficient to take back to your Society. Contact us for your needs.

Canterbury Orchid Society's sale of Orchids in New Zealand binders is generously helping our funding. Bulk purchases from your Society minimises postage and boosts profit.

### HELP WANTED

With the count down to 13th WOC dates now started we list out some of the tasks that need to be carried out before and during the Conference time.

#### HOSPITALITY —

*Conference Satchels* — approximately 10 to help fill the satchels prior to August.

*Airport* — a roster of between 20-30 to greet incoming flights at Auckland Airports from September 7th to September 9th.

*Hospitality Desk* — about 40-50 rostered in short spells to provide information throughout the Conference.

*Gift Baskets* — 20 helpers to fill baskets on September 4th and 5th, rising to about 60 on September 6, 7, 8 and 9th to fill and deliver to hotels and motels.

*Home Hosting* — September 12th is home hosting night on the Conference calendar, an opportunity for visitors to dine in a New Zealand home. Volunteers in and around Auckland are required to open their homes to 1, 2 or more guests for some homespun hospitality.

#### PROGRAMME —

*Lecture Sessions* — approximately 50 Chairpersons and 50 Timekeepers/Assistants.

#### SHOW —

*Setting Up* — many people on Thursday September 6th 1990, for quickly placing equipment and props ordered by each display, and generally assisting in making sure the exhibition and commercial areas are ready for their tenants.

### PUBLICITY

*Articles* — writers of knowledgeable articles for special interest magazines and newspaper features.

*National Orchid Day* — making corsages and selling at various shopping malls around Auckland on this day which will be on one of the earlier days of Conference, probably Saturday September 8th. Other outlets are also planned, for example at flight arrivals at Auckland Airports.

*National Orchid Day* — making corsages and selling at various shopping malls around Auckland on this day which will be on one of the earlier days of Conference, probably Saturday September 8th. Other outlets are also planned, for example at flight arrivals at Auckland Airport.

*Shopping Mall Displays* — assisting in promoting the Conference at shopping malls through the year, by helping with displays and serving at information/sales desks.

There are plenty of chances here for you to become involved in the 13th WOC in a tangible way, with nothing too onerous. All jobs will leave you free to enjoy the Conference activities.

Planning Committee members also have to register at their own cost as well as pay their own expenses to attend the many meetings involved with planning for the Conference. Special presentations made overseas at International orchid conferences over the past years by some members of the Planning Committee and some not on the committee have all been at personal expense. Workers at the Conference and Exhibition, if they are not registrants, will all be paying to pass through the gate.

## Diary Dates 1990

### April

Saturday 21st 12.00 to 5.00

Sunday 22nd 10.00 to 4.00

SOCIETY: Bay of Plenty Orchid Society

VENUE: Te Puke High School Hall

ADDRESS: Tui Street, Te Puke

CONTACT: P.O. Box 478, Te Puke

### May

Saturday 5th Sunday 6th

SOCIETY: Capital City Orchid Society

VENUE: Evans Bay Intermediate School

ADDRESS: Kemp Street, Kilbirnie, Wellington

CONTACT: P.O. Box 3839, Wellington

### June

Friday 8th Saturday 9th Sunday 10th

SOCIETY: North Shore Orchid Society

VENUE: Recreation Hall

ADDRESS: Bite Road, Browns Road, Auckland

CONTACT: Secretary P.O. Box 33-493 Auckland

### July

Saturday 14th 10.00 to 5.00

Sunday 15th 10.00 to 4.00

SOCIETY: Taranaki Orchid Society

VENUE: St Johns Ambulance Hall

ADDRESS: St Aubyn Street, New Plymouth

CONTACT: P.O. Box 635, New Plymouth

### August

Friday 24th Saturday 25th Sunday 26th

SOCIETY: Hawke's Bay Orchid Society

VENUE: Lindesfarne School Hall

ADDRESS: Pakowhai Road, Hastings

CONTACT: Secretary 6 Tiffen Place, Greenmeadows

### September

Monday 10th Show opens

Sunday 16th Show closes

Conference runs 5th — 17th September

SOCIETY: 13th World Orchid Conference

VENUE: New Zealand Exposition Centre

ADDRESS: Green Lane Road, Auckland

CONTACT: Registration-P.O. Box 12-442 Auckland

## Odontoglossum Alliance Growers

### Attention:

*Keen growers of the odontoglossum alliance interested in forming a N.Z. group and possibly affiliating with the international Odontoglossum Alliance based in California, please send a long stamped addressed envelope for further information to:--*

### Odontoglossum Alliance Group

C/- Ron Maunder, P.O. Box 21  
Tauranga



# HAVE A GO!

**S**OME TEN YEARS ago I joined our local orchid club, proud owner of three Cymbidium plants and a couple of back bulbs. The first club meeting I attended I purchased a small plant of *Dendrobium kingianum* from the guest speaker's sales table. I felt quite good that this plants was within my price range. I was quickly told afterwards by several members that they could have given me one, and one actually did give me a very large plant of it a few months later.

Being a hell of a know-all about orchids I quickly divided it up into several smaller plants. I suppose I did it because it looked a bit dead in the middle but also in those days the question one often got asked was "How many orchids have you got?" and one could say without being too big a liar "Or-r-r about a dozen or so". That was just the start of 'having a go'.

Being a young married with a family, all those big beautiful flowering plants always seemed to be way out of my price range. I can remember going on a bus trip with the Club with just enough to buy a back bulb with a shoot or a very small plant. Unlike some on the bus, it didn't take me long to spend my lot.

In those days half the time one didn't know what one was buying and I still don't know a lot more today. The moment you picked up a plant after looking for half an hour or so, somebody behind you would say "Ah! You'll need heat to grow that" or "It needs high light and no water in the winter" etc etc (Helpful know-all).

*Garry Jackson of  
82 South Road,  
Masterton  
explains in this article  
how easy it is to  
Have a Go with Orchids!*

Sold. Still having a go.

With a couple of 100 watt light globes I plunged into the world of heating. Yes that room thermostat that didn't make the hallway in the house ended up in the glasshouse — a much better idea. It worked and actually kept a small part of my glasshouse a little warmer on those cold winter nights.

We then sold up and moved house and would you believe it, after having a small 3.6m x 2.4m glasshouse half sunk in the ground we were now the proud owners of not one, but three glasshouses, 30m x 4.5m, 15m x 6m and 5.2m x 3m respectively. Yep! you guessed it! I couldn't fill them up with my 'Big' orchid collection.

We converted the small one by installing a 5.2m x

1.2m heat bed along one side to raise seedling tomatoes and cucumber plants for the larger glasshouses. From time to time my orchids were allowed to sit on one end of it.

It often happens that somebody gives you a plant or you give somebody one that you haven't been able to flower—not for the lack of trying—and the ungrateful thing flowers straight away. That can cause a lot of joking at club meetings.

As my interest in orchids grew, so did the quest to try something new. I carried on buying small plants and compots—mostly seedlings as they always seemed to be a bit cheaper. Then came my very first flask, going halves with another member on the recommendation of the late Olly Dare, one of our Club's founder members. "It should throw good-shaped greens" were his words. The first one I flowered was just that and this year about another dozen of them are going to flower. It is a pity he is no longer around to see what he had recommended. He

was a most enthusiastic grower and breeder of Cymbidiums and he had a great influence on my early days of orchid growing.

The joy of flowering something for the very first time knowing it may be the only one like it can be very rewarding. I can remember buying for my son a small plant of *Vanda Rothschildiana* at the Wellington International Show in 1985. We walked back and forth between the show and stand twice to show him a flowering one on display to convince him it was what he wanted.

Three years later it flowered and is far better than the one we can remember—what luck! At the same show we bought a compot of *Phalaenopsis* Old Rose (Rusty Rose x Golden Buddha Avant). One has turned out to be a real cracker and if I can keep the snails away it might even make Auckland in 1990.

When I buy plants today I have got into a habit of knocking them out of their pots straight away and re-potting them in my own mix. I find it better to give them all their shocks at once. Nearly all have done better this way for me.

Here are a few of my ideas on deflasking.

1. Take a 2 litre plastic ice-cream container half filled with water the same temperature as the glasshouse and add a few grains of

Condys Crystals (potassium permanganate) just enough to colour the water a very light purple. (Those growing *Disa* from seed should try drenching their potting mix with this before sowing seed).



*Small flask with cattleya seedlings some months from being large enough for removal.*

2. Half fill the flask with this. A few quick shakes should dislodge the plants. If it's a small-necked flask, wrap in paper. A quick tap on the bottom will remove it, then rinse the remainder of the agar off, separate plants and place on paper to dry for about one hour.

3. Pots, to me, are very important at this stage. They should all be the same type with the same size drainage hole.

4. For mix I use the same from flask to flowering for

all genera. It needs to be just dampened.

5. I feed at about  $\frac{1}{2}$  strength every time I water and about every third time give them a good healthy watering to flush the mix.

6. Give lots of air. I open my glasshouses up every day to give a good flush of air through them.

7. If you deflask early in spring you can then repot just before winter. By doing this the plants seem to get a good start the next spring.

8. Try a little dry fertiliser around the top in the spring. Use 2 parts super-phosphate, 1 part blood & bone, 1 part potash. The hardest part is not to be too heavy with the mix as you can burn the little plant's roots off very quickly. This mix makes Cymbidiums bulb up more quickly and makes the plants more solid. Use one teaspoon to a ten litre bucket, scaling down the amount for smaller pots.

So this spring when the Show Season is on and those commercial growers are there with the latest crosses in compot or flask, give them some help and buy some. They haven't got room to grow them all and a tray of young seedling plants is a very pleasing sight growing rapidly away; and who knows — you may just end up with a real show stopper.

So have a go! ◀

# **MANA ORCHID NURSERY**

**7 Harrow Place, Palmerston North**

**Phone: 063-79439**

## **CLEARANCE SALE**

**Queen's Birthday Weekend**

**2nd, 3rd, & 4th June**

**Commences 10.00 a.m.**

### **EVERYTHING MUST GO!!**

I am proud to offer one of New Zealand's finest collections of Cymbidiums, both standard and miniature, including top quality export and cut flower varieties.

All stock is guaranteed disease free.

Special prices on quantities for commercial growers or hobbyists wishing to start a collection. An extensive range of colours with hundreds of plants coming into flower this season.

Now is your chance to buy large multi-spiking plants for the World Orchid Conference to be held in Auckland September 1990, at reasonable prices.

Also offered for sale is plant and equipment —  
all reasonable offers considered.

Any queries can be directed to the nursery. I look forward to seeing you there.

**Gordon Maney  
MANA ORCHID NURSERY**



**REMEMBER . . .**

Wellington's success of 1985



Whangarei Orchid Society

**SEE . . .**

What Auckland can do 1990



**13th World Orchid Conference**  
**5th to 17th September**

Photo: P. C. Tomlinson