



# *Orchids*

*in New Zealand*

Volume 16 No. 6

December 1990

# Australian Orchid Review

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# Orchids

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VOL. 16 No. 6

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# Pheew—it's over . . . . . . at least until next time!!

NEW ZEALAND'S orchid event of the decade, the 13th World Orchid Conference, is now only a piece of history—but what history.

As a flower show, it was a show supreme. The mass of flowers was staggering, the staging imaginative and striking, and the individual flowers breathtaking. I hope that you all saw it. It involved some sacrifice to visit Auckland and see the event, but I am sure all visitors came away well and truly satisfied. And it was not only the flowers that were the attraction—there were orchid experts and identities from all around the world. The opportunity to mix with and talk to the many visitors who we in this country usually can only read about was a feast in itself. An extensive lecture programme was the icing on the cake, and all those who attended took full advantage of the opportunity to hear the world class speakers—in fact the attendances to some sessions considerably stretched the capacity of the halls.

With a reported 60,000 plants on display, the judges had the time of their lives. Prize cards were distributed like confetti on all the displays, although their placement was the result of hours of work and thought and consideration. The Grand Champion of the Show, *Cymbidium* Gladys Whitesell 'The Charmer' was not altogether my choice, but not being a judge I am a Philistine in this regard. I hope someone involved in the judging at the Show will write and tell us all about their experiences, and talk about the champion plants.

Orchid growers cannot go to a show without purchasing plants, and I am sure many bank balances will tell their own stories. Let's hope that all the plants successfully settle into their

## editorial



Orchids in New Zealand  
Editor:  
P. C. Tomlinson  
14 Putnam Street  
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new homes, and become the specimens of the next international orchid show in this country.

It is difficult to pick individual highlights, as every visitor will have their own favourites. The combined display by the Auckland societies certainly was an initial eye-opener. Some of the other displays may not have been as vast but showed flair and imagination. The time and effort that had gone into the organisation, transport and construction of the displays was beyond belief. The fact that many of them had come so far, and so well, was something many visitors may have overlooked—apart from those who were actually involved. The Southland fishing port, the Wanganui river boat, the



Wairarapa shearing shed and the Canterbury stand with its cathedral bells all attracted their share of attention, but these were only some of the themes portrayed. There were a number of overseas displays, and these, and the plants and flowers they contained, received their fair share of study. The quality of some of the plants, not widely seen in this country, meant that extra hours were required to see everything. The quality of the individual plants included was of a very high standard, and there were some spectacular specimens. It was a credit to all involved, and certainly reinforced the high international standard of orchid growing in this country.

It is in connection with the display that my one

disappointment occurred. Shows are primarily for looking at flowers, and to see these to their best good lighting is required. While earlier indications had been given that high intensity, natural spectrum lighting would be used, the lighting for some of the areas was disappointing, both in regards quality and quantity, to some extent detracting from the full appreciation of the exhibits, visually and photographically, for the show was a photographers paradise. I understand that even during the judging some difficulties were experienced with the lighting. It is, however, easy to criticise, and the success must be judged on the quality of the outstanding overall result.

An event such as this brings the whole orchid

community together. There are always some who do not wish to join in, but these people are in the minority. Many years planning is involved, and even now it is not too soon to think of the future. While the next national event will not be a World Orchid Conference, it is not too soon to think of the next New Zealand International Orchid Conference. I hope that there is a group (of perhaps slightly deranged people) who are prepared to organise such an event. You will have many supporters. You may have to work to get the public to attend in view of current trends, as perhaps even this latest event has shown, but there are a group of dedicated orchid growers who are just waiting for the next spectacular.

An event such as the World Orchid Conference depends on the dedication of a number of individuals, both amateur and professional. There is also the full co-operation of the orchid societies throughout the country. Without their involvement there would not be a show. Orchid growers are fortunate that there is a group of people who have given up many days of their time in organising this event. We must not forget their dedication. To each and every one of you, our most sincere thanks. And not just from me, but from everyone. We are all looking forward to your next effort!!! ◀



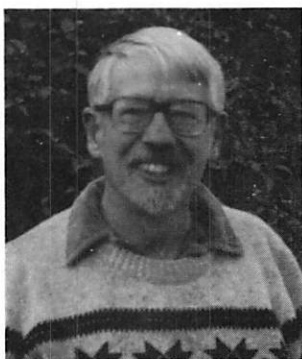
Canterbury Orchid Society Display — 13th W.O.C.

# ORCHID RAMBLINGS

WELL, I'M HOOKED on World Orchid Conferences! It was an experience that I should have had many years ago, and I am saving frantically for the next one already. It's in Glasgow in 1993 so I can kill two birds with one stone and visit all my relatives at the same time. My wife reckons that if I don't drink any beer between now and then I should have ample funds for the trip, but my mind is running along the lines of not recarpeting the house for a few more years. Preliminary positions have been taken and battle will shortly commence.

The initial setup of the Show was the usual shambles, with a particularly large structure at the main entrance which got in everyone's way. This turned out to be the combined Auckland Societies display, undoubtedly one of the highlights of the show. And as usual, everything seemed to fall into place in the last few minutes, and we all went away to get a rest. (Actually, it was someone's birthday and we had a party).

For me, the best part of the Conference was meeting people from all over the World, and finding out what they were doing that was new and different. Particularly fascinating was being an assistant at the judging, apart from getting more exercise in one morning than in the previous month, the amount of information that I gained from listening to the judges was incredible. Of course I don't grow vandaceous orchids so most of the knowledge can't be used, but the principles of growing and judging don't change and I



**Bob McCulloch is back from Auckland and the WOC — “orchid-logged” by the sound of it.**

am sure going to help next time. I was also impressed by the way that a group of judges from all around the world could come to a consensus so quickly and amicably.

The quality of the displays and the flowers were outstanding, and there were so many of them, there couldn't have been many flowering orchids in the rest of N.Z. during that week. And of course there was the opportunity to mingle with the famous names of the orchid world and find out



*Cym. Bud March 'Rosetta'.*

A superb specimen at the 13th World Orchid Conference  
Grown by Jack van Damm.

how they deal with their culture problems. My moment of fame came early in the piece when I registered and was confused with Raymond McCullough, Ex-President of AOS. There was a pretty maroon coloured piece of material on my name tag which I thought went very nicely with my shirt, and it wasn't until I noticed other people with the same thing that I realised the word "Judge" was on it. Back to registration to sort it out and they even tried to take the pen out of my satchel, as only judges were allowed something to write with.

One thing that was common to all the overseas visitors I spoke to was their surprise at how cool we grow our orchids in NZ. Most of them grow cymbidiums at a minimum of 12 to 14 degrees, and were amazed that they would survive at single digit temperatures. One person even grew odont seedlings at 18 degrees and claimed flowers in from eighteen months to two and a half years from flask. Growing in Rockwool. This Rockwool is the latest thing in growing media, or potting mix as I think of it. It is inert and needs special techniques and may even be bad for your health, but the people who use it swear by it, and maybe one day I will see a plant growing in it. In the meantime if you want to experiment, get some batts and try a few

seedlings in it, I believe it is almost the same. Of course you will have to grow them hydro-ponically and I wonder if it's better to let someone else try first. Then they can write about it in "Orchids in New Zealand", and you can copy them.

The lectures were well attended, too well in fact, and were so worthwhile that I'm sorry that I had to miss some of the alternative sessions. No doubt it will all be in the Conference Proceedings, which I expect to arrive in the mail any day now. The Australian Native Orchid lectures were particularly popular and had to be held in the theatre rather than in the lecture rooms, at very short notice. Throughout the Conference I was impressed by the speed at which hiccups were put right, the organisational effort was tremendous. Of course you can't expect everything to be perfect, and it wasn't but it was pretty good all the same.

The Registrant's viewing day was hectic, with the flashes of cameras and the singing of their rechaging making it both difficult to see and hear properly. I did my usual trick of not loading the film correctly and taking lots of photos on the same spot on the film, but I noticed it this time and fixed it up. However it seems that my camera was falling to bits internally at the time, and

most of my shots are out of focus. I am definitely not a photographer, and my next camera is going to be one of those "point and shoot" ones.

The sales area was also packed, there was none of this waiting to see if it was still there the next time you went round the hall, if you didn't grab it when you first saw it, it was usually on it's way to Japan or America before you could blink. There were so many plants and flask never seen before and probably never to be seen again, that a man could go berserk without any trouble at all. And the beauty of it was that there was new stuff every day, so you could do it all again.

What with breakfast forums, lectures, lunchtime poster displays, and sags, it was a hectic few days. (Sigs are special interest groups, it had me fooled for a long time). Which was just as well, for I have found out how the Aucklander's get the highest temperatures on the weather maps—it's actually just as cold as anywhere else most of the day, but from mid-morning to mid-afternoon it gets very warm, then when the weather people have read their thermometers it gets cold again, and you have to move briskly to keep from freezing. At least it didn't rain. So the WOC of the WOC did that bit correctly.

All in all, it was a wonderful week, I met lots



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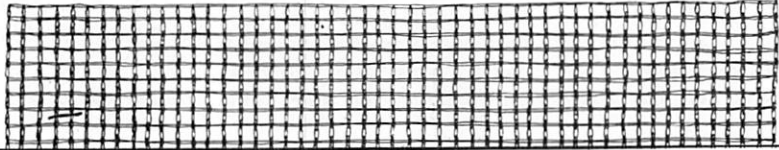
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of old friends and made lots of new ones, and just as soon as I've recovered from it all then I will be interested in orchids again. There was an orchid show on last weekend, and I really wasn't interested in going, I must be orchid-logged at the moment! ◀

## ORCHID BADGE MANIA!

Nobody quite anticipated the number of orchid-badge-a-holics that would besiege the Badge Korner at the W.O.C! Keen collectors were on the job as early as setting up Saturday! Pockets and purses bulging with badges, swap cloths rattling round in the bottom of carry bags, at the ready should a 'must have' present itself! It was too difficult to be even faintly organised so we succumbed to the mayhem from our opening time Monday to our early closing time at conference end. Happily most societies entered into the swing of things by keeping us supplied with badges which disappeared as fast as we could put them out. Phone calls were made for extra supplies (some long distance!) and in the frequent extreme emergencies some were even snavelled off lapels



Wanganui Orchid Society Display — 13th W.O.C.

for us!! Wheeling 'n dealing was the norm. We even successfully swapped swaps for swappers who were either committed to W.O.C. elsewhere or overseas visitors who were out enjoying the sights. One fella from Australia's Northern Territory got badge fever so bad he was almost a permanent fixture at the Korner. Keen international badgers were to be seen sporting waistcoats covered in badges nicely arranged in country order for quick reference! Yet another organised badger came with his entire collection packed 'n stacked in a specially made display case for the enjoyment of other badgers. His invention was very popular with all who spied it and my poor unsuspecting spouse will have yet another chore added to the list for

attention when the Whitebait season has ended! George Vasquez will also be looking for something in which to display the N.Z. badges he acquired via the auction. Keen badger is George. It is said when one door closes another opens—so when the doors open in Glasgow in 1993 guess who's going to be adding to their mayhem? ◀

## W.O.C. BADGES

A quantity of the small round W.O.C. Badges have come to hand. If you missed out during the show now's your chance to secure a memento or add a few to your swaps.

Still at \$5.00 each. Cheques payable to 13th W.O.C. P.O. Box 29-152 Greenwoods Corner Auckland 3.

*Heather Crofskey*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

13th World Orchid Conference: "Alas!", or perhaps I should say "At last", the World Orchid Conference has now been and gone—a tremendous achievement by all. Of course, as with most projects of this magnitude, there were a few problems, mostly minor I might add, and surmountable, and positive comments on the success of the show have been flowing in continually.

With the advent of the publication of the "proceedings" you will be able to re-live the 13th WOC in its entirety. This promises to be a magnificent production of over 400 pages and will include 300 colour photos of award winning flowers, displays and personalities (could be you!) The WOC Proceedings are generally printed in limited quantities, so it is essential for you, that is if you wish to obtain one because these are collectors' items, to order your copy as soon as possible and you can do this through P.O. Box 489, Whangarei, — Cost \$140.00.

While I'm talking about printed material, we still have approximately 200 copies of the History book on N.Z. Orchid Growers, selling at \$10.00 each. This is a must for any serious orchid grower and all orchid societies should have at least two in their libraries.

There are many personalities listed in this book from earlier orchid growing days—1950's to the 1980's which all makes very interesting reading



President Syd Wray and wife Joy

indeed. Maybe there is an old identity in YOUR area that you did not know about who has been growing orchids for many years, and his knowledge has never been tapped. Who knows! — take the plunge and buy this history book, you won't regret your decision. Many many hours of work and effort have gone into this excellent publication.

### CONZED Council

The official handover of Council to the newly elected executive is now taking place and all correspondence to Council should now be addressed to P.O. Box 489, Whangarei. I intend to do my utmost to keep our orchid fraternity a very happy and harmonious one and will not tolerate any stirring or

infighting within societies wherever they be situated in New Zealand, and in particular, I will not accept that anything can be gained by societies circularising all other societies of their trials and tribulations.

### Communications:

Positive feedback on ways of improving communication systems is one area I wish to look at—actually getting secretaries to change names and addresses of other societies (we're still getting mail to the Whangarei Orchid Society addressed to the previous secretary who actually stepped down three years ago). Do we have to name secretaries who do not make these changes, or do we have to run seminars for secretaries and treasurers and hope



they turn up to support and participate. Perhaps we could run a special course at the A.G.M. in New Plymouth in June for secretaries and treasurers, time permitting.

In closing I would like to thank all those people who

spent long hours on WOC committees and who travelled long distances for little reward, and I also extend congratulations to societies and their members who allowed their plants to be part of a successful Conference and Show. Without all these

wonderful people's support we would never have had such a magnificent exhibition. In the eyes of the overseas visitors—you did yourselves PROUD!!

Thank you all

Syd Wray  
President, CONZED

---

## VALE: RAY HARGRAVES

**S**ADLY, Ray Hargraves passed away on Friday 22nd June and a large gathering of orchid persons were present at his funeral on Monday 25th. We extend our sincere sympathy to Pat and the family and reproduce here the moving tribute delivered by Assid Corban.

"It is my privilege as President of the Auckland Orchid Club to stand before you today to pay tribute to Ray Hargraves, fellow grower, orchid judge and friend.

Many of us here today commenced our friendship with Ray through our common love of growing orchids. Ray lived for his orchids—a hobby he shared with Pat for the past 25 years. He was encouraged in his hobby by his brothers in Australia, who had hybridised some crosses that have become well known in the orchid world. The best known of these, and of which he was most proud, was *Cym. Mallana* 'Memoria Caroline Hargraves', named after his mother, which Ray was so pleased to display at the 1973 NZOS



Spring Show. It won the Grand Champion Cup and received an AM/NZOS, one of the highest awards of 1973. It is interesting to note that the Reserve Champion that year was Jim James' *Cym. Hi-Rated* 'Moonstone' which became Grand Champion in 1974.

Ray was a creative person in his trade as a

designer and manufacturer of handbags—a trade in which Pat worked alongside him for many, many years. His appreciation of quality led to him becoming an NZOS Judge, a position he held for the past 13 years. He and Pat were always enthusiastic exhibitors at shows, not only in and around Auckland but in the Waikato. He was a keen member of the Judging Panel, always making himself available to judge anywhere and at any time. He was also an Orchid Council Judge. He was a man of high principles who was never afraid to argue his point of view on judging and other matters about which he felt strongly. Once he had said his piece, he never carried a grudge. He was a member of The New Zealand, the

Waikato, and North Shore Orchid Societies and The Auckland Orchid Club, many of whose members are here today. Never one to stand back and let others do the work, he served 9 years on the Executive of the NZOS and later was a foundation member and treasurer of the Auckland Orchid Club, and an executive member for the last 4 years.

Miriam and I had the pleasure and companionship of working in a close relationship with Ray and Pat after their retirement from their partnership in business about four years ago. Ray volunteered his help to us at the height of each export season, and we all spent many happy hours together among the orchids and in the packing shed, discussing the merits of various new seedlings.

Ray will be greatly missed by us all and we extend our heartfelt sympathy to Pat and her family in their great loss. Each of us here today will have our different special memories of our association with him and we all appreciate his contribution to orchid growing in New Zealand.

Thank you Ray, for the fellowship we enjoyed together over many years. You will have a special place in our memories and our lives are the richer for having known you". ◀

## Letter to the Editor

Sir,

Has anyone "out there" an answer to my problem?

My second attempt at growing *Alicea* appears to be heading the same way as the first—into the rubbish bin due to soft bulb rot.

The first plant several years ago made good growths after an initial settling in period, then I noticed the bulb behind a new growth starting to soften at the base. The affected area was watery looking, then the bulb tissue became a light brown colour. This infection must have transferred to the new growth (no bulb made up) which collapsed. It also spread to previous bulbs even after severing each as symptoms showed. I was eventually reduced to one apparently unaffected bulb that in desperation was soaked in a strong concentration of fungicide for several days. This arrested the infection, but the bulb was unable to make more than a small growth at the apex which did not survive. Some 18 months later, being a masochist, I bought another and on repotting found the same infection. I

thought I had stopped this by promptly cutting 2 bulbs out behind the infected one and soaking again in fungicide. Twelve months on with good new root growth and a new 6 inch shoot from two sides, guess what? Another collapsed growth and infected bulb!

Apart from *Alicea* Maury Island 'Fantasy' (my only *alicea*) taking my fancy, I hate to be beaten. Any suggestions?

**P.S.** A number of our cymbidium growers this year are getting very short spikes on their standards. Some hardly show above the mix before they break the buds from the sheaths despite having flowered normally previous years. Even a guess at why would be welcome. ◀

John Gilliland

*Can anyone help?  
Any suggestions should  
be addressed to  
the Editor.*

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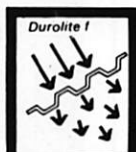


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*Feature of the month:*

## GROWING OF PHALAENOPSIS

**W**ITH A NAME derived from Greek and meaning 'resembling a moth', *Phalaenopsis* is certainly among the most graceful and beautiful of the orchid family, so in order to understand their requirements let us have a look at the environment of the species.

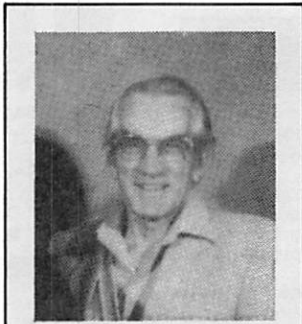
**HABITAT**—Their natural range is mainly across the lowlands of one of the hottest and most moist parts of the world, stretching from Assam through Burma, the Phillipines, Malaysia and Indonesia, to northern Australia. Being epiphytic, they grow high up in trees perhaps 100 feet tall so as to get their share of rain and light. Where they grow in rain forests they are subject almost daily to very heavy downpours of short duration and then the sun breaks through, the temperature rises and the light filters down through the canopy of leaves. Those that grow higher up the mountain slopes may not experience the daily tropical downpours of the rain forests, but are wreathed in

mists and clouds for long periods of the day. Others grow lower down on trees overhanging waterfalls and streams where the spray and general high humidity supplies them with their moisture requirements.

Obviously then, *phalaenopsis* for its successful growth needs an environment where the humidity is high, say around 70-80%, fre-

quent drenchings of water and a temperature which ranges from a minimum at night of 63-65°F (17-18°C) to a day maximum of 75-85°F (24-30°C) all year round. Temperatures may even go to the low 90°s for short periods, and providing humidities are kept high and frequent misting applied to the leaves no harm will come to the plant.

**SHADING**—In the past it was considered that heavy shading was necessary for successful growth and so light levels of only around 700 foot-candles were provided. These light levels will produce nice green leaves and good looking plants, but there is a reluctance on the part of some plants to flower under these



*Wellington's Syd Patton grew some of the best phalaenopsis seen there around 1980. His description of the culture used reveals some approaches different from those usually applied, but the results show they are worth considering. All growers of orchids will find ideas which must start everyone seriously thinking of their own cultural methods. Not everyone will apply these ideas, but nevertheless they should stimulate thought and discussion.*

conditions. Nowadays the experts recommend light levels of about 1500-3000 foot-candles, providing certain other conditions are met as explained below. Since sunlight is the source of energy for the process of photosynthesis by which all plants live and grow, these higher light levels are of great value to the plant if all the other factors are in balance. So that if the higher light levels are used, then higher humidities, more water and more nutrient are required to sustain the plant. Remember it is not the higher light level that burns the plant—it is the leaf temperature that does the damage and this is reduced by higher humidity and air movement, along with frequent misting of the plant's leaves. The evaporation of the moisture deposited by misting causes a temperature drop at the leaf's surface which keeps it cooler than the surrounding air and hence reduces the tendency to burn.

**WATERING**— *Phalaenopsis* has no rest period and therefore the roots must never be permitted to dry out completely. Watering therefore must be sufficient to keep moist at all times. Frequency of watering, of course, depends on how coarse a potting mix is used, and as the plant seems to be very tolerant of what it is growing in, recommended mixes vary from one grower to another

to suit their individual conditions or access to materials. Hugo Freed of 'Malibu Orchid Range' fame grows his in bark only, in a mixture of  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$ " bark pieces for pot sizes of 3" upwards. For smaller pots he uses bark sizes of  $\frac{1}{8}$  to  $\frac{1}{4}$ ". In Singapore the growers use just large chunks of broken brick and charcoal and feed their plants every week, but

using a fertiliser of a different N.P.K. value every time. Other growers use the standard cymbidium mix sold in New Zealand. Because I have a tendency to be a bit heavy-handed when it comes to watering, I use bark and charcoal in large chunks of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3". Using these materials, coupled with the fact that I am gradually potting my plants on into wooden



Phal. (Anne Hernandez x (Maria Vasquez x Anne Hernandez))  
Stewarts Orchids — 13th World Orchid Conference

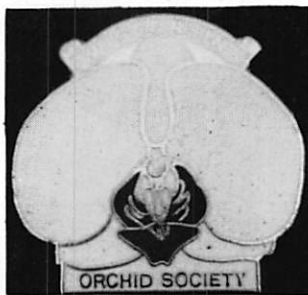


baskets, I can pour water on to my plants in great quantities without any fear of them becoming waterlogged. Indeed, in the summertime I have watered three and four times a day every day, by so doing I think I am getting closer to the natural conditions of the species where they are subject to daily periods of heavy rain.

**FEEDING**—Any of the well known brands of organic and inorganic fertilisers can be used, but always make sure your plants have been well watered before-hand and never use greater concentrations than those recommended by the manufacturer. If your watering programme calls for watering more than once a week in the more active growing periods, then feed after every watering but reduce the concentration of the fertiliser accordingly, otherwise feed once a week, always remembering that higher light levels call for more watering and more feeding along with higher humidities. I like to use only organic fertilisers, and alternate between two or three different brand-names of differing N.P.K. values. Also, when the plants are developing their spikes I like to use sugar at the rate of 1 to 1½ teaspoons each gallon of fertiliser once a week. Incidentally, I like to use sugar at a concentration of 1 tablespoon to a gallon of water to soak

newly received bare-root plants or newly deflasked seedlings before potting up.

**DISEASES**—Provided you can keep your plants growing in an environment that closely matches that of the species, then a preventative spray program such as spraying with Captan once a fortnight coupled with gentle air movement provided by a fan or by natural air movement throughout the glasshouse by leaving vents and doors open, is all that is necessary to prevent most fungus



diseases. However, you must avoid letting water remain in the crown of your plant. Heat spotting can also be caused by cold water lying on the leaves for lengthy periods. While not fatal to the plant, it can be unsightly and the damaged portions could lead to the onset of other fungus disease. A dusting of flowers of sulphur should be sufficient; however, if the damaged area increases in size then you may have to cut it away back to healthy tissue and then dust the exposed areas with flowers of sulphur. If you

have to do this, always use a freshly sterilised or flamed cutting tool. Remember that if you buy from a reputable grower, your plants will almost certainly be disease-free and pest-free, so any onset of disease or pests can only be due to your own methods of culture.

**PESTS**—Along with a preventative spray program against disease, a pesticide spray program should be adopted, 'Malathion' being my choice.

**POTTING MIX**—As stated earlier, I use large chunks of bark and charcoal 2½ to 3" in size for plants of about 4" leaf length and up. For smaller plants I use pieces about ¾ to 1½". I soak these for two to three days and then drain, and to every 2 gallon bucket of this mix I add 1 tablespoon of dolomite lime and 1 tablespoon of 'Yates' general purpose garden fertiliser. With such a coarse mix it is impossible to pot a plant firmly and indeed I do not try to, as a lot of damage can occur to the roots if you try to ram the mix down hard. However in a week or so the plant roots will have attached themselves to the chunks of bark and become quite firm in their pot or basket. If you can spare the extra room required, it is preferable to place the plant close to the edge of its container and pot so that the plant tends to hang down over the edge. In this attitude



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the leaves will shed the water and prevent it from lodging in the crown. Growers in Singapore use special clay pots with a large hole in the side for *Phalaenopsis*. The roots of the plant are fed through this hole into the mix and the plant hangs down naturally as it would in its wild state.

The bark used in the mix provides some nutrient as it breaks down but in the process, robs the plant of nitrogen from the applied fertilisers. In order to compensate for this a sprinkling of dried blood once or twice a year spread over the top of the mix supplies the extra nitrogen required. I also use an atmospheric stimulant in the form of ammonium bicarbonate. I put a tablespoon of this compound in a small container and hang it up in the glasshouse. On exposure to the atmosphere it gives off ammonia, which is absorbed by the charcoal in the mix and released to the roots of the plants as nitrogen. Another by-product released in the breakdown of ammonium bicarbonate is carbon dioxide, which of course is a vital element of plant life.

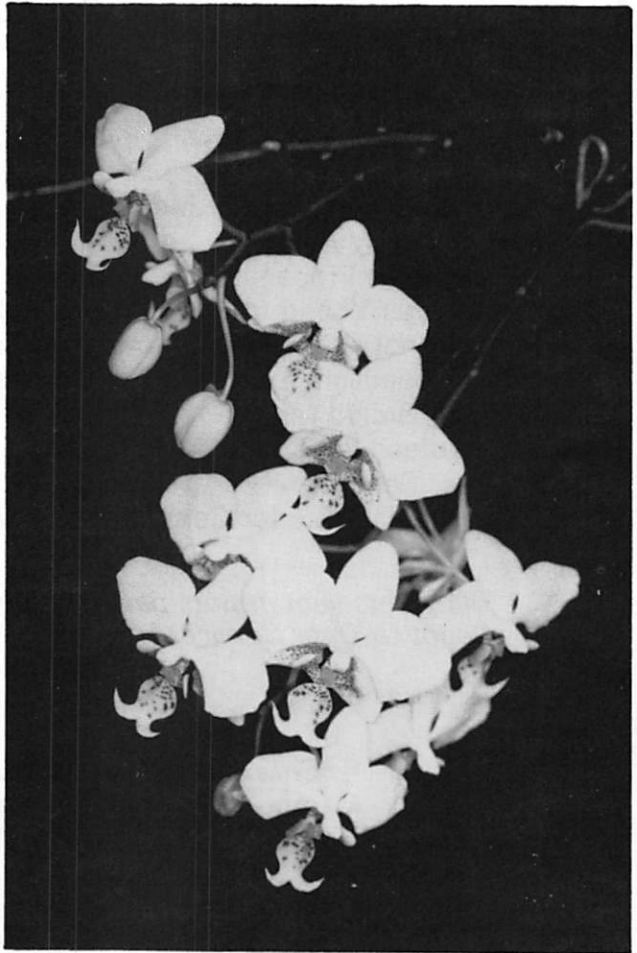
**FLOWERING**—To initiate the flower buds it is necessary to lower the night time temperatures down to 55°F for about two weeks. If this is successful the flower spike will appear within a month and the

first bloom will open within about 90 days, with the full spike open in 120 days. The flowers should then remain in bloom for at least another two months if left on the plant.

The above cultural notes can be applied equally well to other monopodial epiphytes such as *vanda*, *ascocentrum*, *rhynchostylis*, *angraecum*, etc., and their inter-

generic hybrids, making due allowances of course for their differing maximum and minimum temperature requirements.

**FURTHER HINTS**—One of the soundest pieces of advice I have read was in Hugo Freed's book 'New Horizons in Orchid Breeding', in which he places great emphasis on observ-



*Phal. stewardiana* — Grower: Wellington C.C. Parks & Reserves

ation. In other words, don't just look at your plants, observe them. If you make a practice of really observing your plants you will be quick to notice any changes which may not be in the best interests of the plant and in that way you can take remedial action before any damage has been done. I make a practice of lifting all my plants at least once a week and peering under the leaves as well as the top surface and look for the onset of any fungal diseases or pest infestation. Because, when growing vigorously, a *phalaenopsis* plant produces a great number of roots which reach out over the pot or basket, and if left undisturbed will attach themselves to the benches or grow into the mix of adjoining pots, lifting the pots at frequent intervals will save you a lot of damaged root tips. Another good practice I find is to question the reason you do something. It is by questioning that you learn to build a better mousetrap or in this case make some ammendment to a cultural practice resulting in a healthier plant. Also by questioning you come to learn the importance of why you do something, and knowing this you will be more inclined to give your plants the attention they require.

We have all heard it said at times that so and so's Auntie Bertha or Cousin

Fred grows orchids and doesn't have to do anything to them because they just thrive on neglect. Well I for one don't believe this nor I hope do you, for no *living* entity in the plant or animal kingdom can thrive on neglect. They may survive for a few months or even a few years but eventually they will die if the neglect is total.

**CLAY POTS VERSUS PLASTIC POTS**—If you have some clay pots, I would suggest you use them for your cooler growing genera. Due to the porosity of clay pots, water in the mix permeates through to the outside of the pots where it evaporates. In the process of evaporation the pot loses heat to the air and thus becomes cooler. Since plastic pots are not porous this process doesn't occur and so the roots of plants in plastic pots could be 5-7° warmer than those in clay pots.

**COOL HEADS—WARM FEET**—A saying among gardeners of earlier years was that plants needed cool heads and warm feet and this still applies. If you think for a moment about plants in your garden where under normal circumstances the ground temperatures are always a few degrees warmer than the air temperatures. Under these conditions warm air rises from the ground and the ground loses a small amount of heat which, however, is

continuously being replaced by the sun shining on it. Now as this warm air rises up past the plant, cool air moves in to take its place and thus a micro-climate is established around the plant with the roots always remaining a few degrees warmer than that piece of plant above the ground, or in other words there is a rising temperature gradient from the top of the plant above ground to that part of the plant below the ground. Now the question arises that, if this is considered an optimum requirement for plant growth, how can we put it into practice and gain some benefit? Like most people who grow orchids requiring warm conditions the cost of heating a glasshouse has always been a bit upsetting to me, no matter what method is used for heating. If we could heat only the roots of our plants and allow the warm air to rise from the potting mix up around the plant instead of heating the whole glasshouse then we would be supplying more optimum conditions and with a great saving in heating costs.

My solution, while not necessarily the only one nor the perfect one, has certainly proved to be an economical way of providing the required heat for growing *phalaenopsis*, *vanda*, *cattleya*, *miltonia*, etc. I built two troughs, one about 7 feet long by 2 feet 9 inches

wide by 6 inches deep. The second one is 6 feet long, the other dimensions being the same as the first. These are made of marine plywood and are mounted on legs to bring them to about bench height. In the base of each I put 2 inches of sand, then in the larger one I laid 2 sixty watt soil heating cables. In the smaller one I used only one cable. On top of the cables I placed another inch of sand and finally a layer of peat moss about 2 inches deep. I built a frame around each one taking them up to within about 2 inches from the roof of the glasshouse. I covered this frame with bubble plastic

with the exception of the front which is open. I keep the sand and peat moss in the troughs moist at all times. Now I placed my pots and baskets on wooden stages a couple of inches above the peat, and so the hot moist air rising from the dampened peat-sand layers and moving up through the pots warms the roots and mix and thereby loses heat so that when it emerges from the top of the pot it is a degree or two cooler. As it continues moving up over the plant it is replaced by cooler air moving in from outside the frame and so a temperature gradient is established rising from the top of the

plant down to the roots: in other words, cool heads—warm roots.

The big bonus of course is that by this method I can grow cool, intermediate, and warm growing genera in the one glasshouse. The larger frame maintains a minimum temperature of 65°F, and contains about 36 *phalaenopsis* plants and a few smaller plants of other genera. The small frame maintains a minimum temperature of 55°F and contains about 24 mixed *cattleya*, *vanda*, *miltonia*, *dendrobium*, and miscellaneous plants with room on another shelf for almost as many more. Cool-growing



*Phalaenopsis* Cadiz Rock, 'Queenslander'  
Grower: Stewart Heyden — 13th World Orchid Conference

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genera are grown in the unheated space in the glasshouse. The total load requirements for three soil heating cables plus another small open air heating element (also mounted in the *phalaenopsis* frame) is just over 220 watts. Had I used an orthodox system, i.e. electric fan heater or gas heater, I would have required about 2 kw of energy for warm growing or about 1¼ kw for intermediate growing conditions. So the saving in heating expenditure is evident, along with having established a cool-head, warm-root environment. Incidentally, and this is purely another theory of mine, I don't use any fan to move air around. Because a fan does just exactly that — moves the *same* air around. On all but those nights when we have a frost I leave a bottom louvre open, and by convection this provides a gentle air movement, but more important, it *changes* the air and hence replenishes the carbon dioxide in the glasshouse as it is taken in by the plant.

Another sacred cow which I have questioned is the value of maintaining sterile conditions within the glasshouse. My reasoning is this. In its natural habitat the jungle plant is growing in an environment where the forest floor is littered with decaying vegetation. The moist warm air rising up from the forest

floor carries with it the gases of this decomposition and hence provides the plants with some of their vital requirements. Now, I wouldn't advocate throwing your vegetable peelings over the floor of your glasshouse, but the judicious use of peat moss as a substitute for the litter on the forest floor provides a

neat solution. This is one of the reasons I use moistened peat moss over the heating cables in the growing frames described earlier.

Another generally accepted practice that I think is of doubtful merit, is the collection of rain water for the watering of your plants. I would agree that



Dtps. Maufort 'Trinity'  
Grower: Eric Young Orchid Foundation — 13th W.O.C.





**Phal. Ida Fukumoto**

**Grower: Stewart Heyden — 13th World Orchid Conference**

rain falling down straight on to plants is the ideal way to provide them with their moisture requirements and if we could call up a rain shower whenever we wanted it then we could ask for nothing better. However, if we have to store it, then when we use it, it is no longer in the fresh, aerated state as when it is falling. If it has been stored in the warmth of a glass-house for more than a few

days I imagine it will have released any entrapped oxygen, nitrogen, carbon dioxide etc., and also algal growths will have started on its surface and also I imagine its pH value will have changed. The only alternative then is the domestic water supply and here in Wellington where we are blessed with a relatively 'soft' domestic water supply I am quite happy with this alternative.

I can't believe the added chlorine could be the problem that some people claim it to be, it is there in such minute quantities but sufficient to inhibit algal growths and harmful bacteria. However if you are still in doubt, then leave your bucket of water in the sun for an hour or so and any residual chlorine rapidly will be dissipated into the atmosphere.

To conclude, let me say the above alternatives I have suggested to generally accepted practices are my own theories and I don't suggest you adopt them if you are happy with your own cultural methods. If I have ruffled your feathers by casting doubts on some time-honoured cultural methods, put it down to the ramblings of an enthusiastic amateur.

As a palliative let me offer an untried hint for keeping the roots of plants in pots a little bit warmer still. Expanded polystyrene is an excellent insulator and pots made of this product keep the mix and hence the roots a few degrees warmer than plastic pots because of the greatly reduced heat loss. However, such pots are very light and are easily overturned. As an alternative I have thought of lining plastic pots with say ¼" thick expanded polystyrene sheeting. As yet I have not tried this but see no reason why it should not be of benefit. ◀

# Frame a flower

## PICTURE FRAME

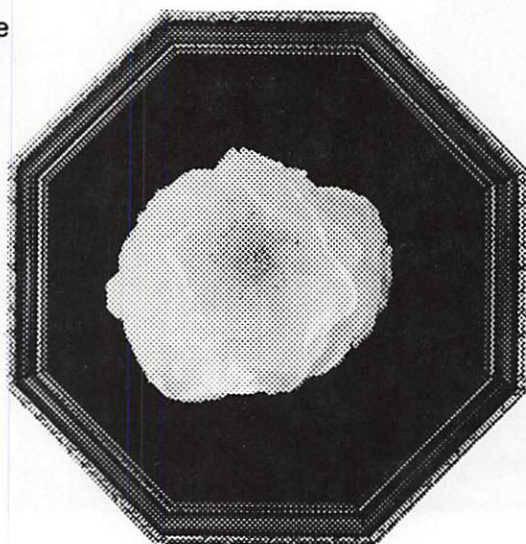
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# Orchids

IN NEW ZEALAND

*Awards  
Supplement  
1989*



***Paphiopedilum armeniacum* 'MANAKAU' AM/OCNZ**

Dimensions: Natural spread 113mm; Dorsal sepal 37mm wide, 50mm long; Synsepal 30mm wide, 47mm long; Petals 54mm wide, 63mm long; Pouch 54mm wide, 71mm long.

Described as overall being an even sulphur yellow with some small reddish brown pepper spotting on the base of the petals and inside the pouch. Staminode lightly marked with reddish brown. Research of previously awarded clones established this as the largest yet pointed. Slightly deficient colour intensity precluded higher points. A worthy recipient of 'Orchid of the Year 1989', scoring 85.3 points.

*Exhibitor: Sherlock's Orchids*

# Judging for 1989

IT IS with pleasure that I report a year of achievement and consolidation within the judging fraternity.

There have been two significant changes in the membership of the Committee on Awards —

Firstly, the sad loss of our esteemed friend, Dr Ken Patterson, who passed away on Tuesday 19 September 1989. Ken was a most able administrator who never ceased advocating the well-being of the judging personnel in the Southern Region.

Ken's Deputy Chairman, Peter Webester, was appointed by the Committee as interim Regional Chairman and Peter was endorsed by the Southern Region membership at the first semi-annual meeting at Nelson last February, as Regional Chairman.

Secondly, Syd Wray relinquished his position as Northern Region Chairman at the beginning of this year and Ross Tucker was appointed his successor. Syd rendered great service to the judging system and it is most gratifying to know that as President of CONZED his rapport and understanding is close at hand. Ross Tucker joins the Committee with a long history of orchid involvement and our full confidence that he will do a splendid job.

For a variety of reasons it was necessary to revise and re-publish the Judging By-laws. A copy of the By-laws has been forwarded to all affiliated Societies to enable them to understand the judging framework.

In that orchid judging is an extension of commercial and hobbyist involvement, it is a demanding and responsible adjunct. We invite interested persons to consider an involvement and offer two categories:-

1. For the serious person, the journey to Accredited Judge is some six years, commencing as a Registered Observer for a period of up to two years, followed by a further four years as an Associate Judge. Over this period, attendance and ability are strictly monitored.
2. For the less seriously inclined, the category of Judging Auxiliary allows one to pursue an interest without the formality of full participation in the system. This latter option includes

involvement at all levels except award point scoring i.e. attendance at local shows and judging in a clerical capacity and as an accompanying spouse or friend at Seminars, etc.

National, regional and supplemental region activities have been extensive and generally attendances have been excellent.

The combined Show Judging and National Seminar held at Hamilton during October 1989 achieved a great deal in the pursuit of an acceptable system of judging at the 13th World Orchid Conference. Full credit to the Waikato Orchid Society, the Bonham Family, our overseas guests, Kevin Hipkins and Snow Peterson from Australia; Ned Nash, Bob Fuchs and Milton Carpenter from the USA, plus the 130 Registrants, for an exciting event.

The 7th National Seminar was held at Nga Tawa School, Marton, from 11 to 13 May 1990,

with an attendance of 114. Again, the overriding consideration was preparation for 13 WOC.

These two Seminars, along with those held in Rotorua in May of 1988; Auckland, October 1988; and Nga Tawa, May 1989, have contributed to the raising of the level of competence and confidence of all personnel, not only for Auckland's World Orchid Conference but also for the ongoing success of orchid judging in New Zealand.

Within the Regions, 23 persons were accepted as Registered Observers, 9 of whom have subsequently been elevated to the status of Associate Judge. From the existing ranks of Associate Judges, 19 achieved Accredited Judge status. Four of our long service Accredited Judges

opted for a reduced level of involvement and were accorded Reserve Judge status. Regrettably, two Accredited Judges failed to maintain minimum attendance requirements and were eliminated from the system.

## AWARDS

31 Awards were ratified during 1989, being —

- 5 Award of Merit (AM)
- 16 Highly Commended Certificate (HCC)
- 2 Award of Distinction (AD)
- 8 Certificate of Cultural Commendation (CCC)

## ORCHID OF THE YEAR FOR 1989

*Paphiopedilum armeniacum* 'Manakau' AM/OCNZ grown by Sherlock's Orchids, Atkins Road, Manakau.

For the second consecutive year a clone of *Paph armeniacum* has achieved the distinction of 'Orchid of the Year'.

## IN CONCLUSION

My thanks to all who have contributed to the ongoing success of orchid judging in New Zealand.

D. G. (Doug) BURGESS  
Chairman  
Committee on Awards

### NOTE:

1) A number of awarded plants are not illustrated, because of the unsatisfactory photographs submitted.

2) Items in normal type are CONZED awards. Those in italics have been awarded by the NZOS.

Editor

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## CYMBIDIUMS

Again a somewhat disappointing year flower quality wise. One wonders just what is being held in reserve for 13 WOC disclosure.

### JACK HUDLOW 'WAIKANA'

(HIGH SIERRA x *devonianum*)  
Natural spread 67mm; Dorsal sepal 31mm wide, 40mm long; Petals 25mm wide, 37mm long; Lip 28mm wide, 25mm long.

Two spikes of 19 and 9 flowers respectively. A bright green flower with a little reddish flushing. Particularly striking lip, dark burgundy with a thin pink edge.

AM/OCNZ 81.7 Points

Natural spread 67mm. Sepal length 40mm width 31mm. Petal length 37mm width. 25mm. Labellum length 25mm width 28mm.

Sepals and petals chartreuse green overlaid with faint dark red striping. The most prominent feature of this flower was its solid very dark lip.

AM/NZOS AD/NZOS  
Grower Geyslerland Orchids

### PATRICIA FRENCH 'PINK SURPRISE'



(WALLARA x YOWIE FLAME)  
Natural spread 118mm; Dorsal sepal 40mm wide, 75mm long; Ventral sepals 40mm wide, 64mm long; Petals 34mm wide, 70mm long; Lip 33mm wide, 37mm long.

One flowering bulb with one spike of 16 flowers displayed well above the foliage.

This N.Z. raised seedling had dusky pink flowers, veined and lightly spotted basally on sepals and petals. Lip set off by edging of dusky pink with deep crimson markings extending to side lobes with central gold brushing.

Exhibitor: Gray and Reid  
AM/OCNZ 80.3 points

### SWEET LIME 'RON'S PRIDE'

(ESMERALDA x *madidum*)  
Natural spread 57mm; Dorsal sepal 18mm wide, 43mm long; Ventral sepals 17mm wide, 41mm long; Petals 12mm wide, 43mm long; Lip 13mm wide, 28mm long.

An extremely well grown specimen plant carrying 9 spikes on 9 flowering bulbs, 304 flowers and 88 buds. Average length of flower spikes was 1.5 metres with one being 1840mm. Bright clean foliage with leaf length of 1050mm. Overall a most imposing sight and a worthy award.

Grower: Ron and Tui Collins  
CCC/OCNZ Unanimous

### PATRICIA FRENCH 'NICOLA'



(WALLARA x YOWIE FLAME)  
Overall width 95mm; Dorsal sepal 43mm wide, 62mm long; Ventral sepals 40mm wide, 62mm long; Petals 30mm wide, 64mm long; Lip 38mm wide, 38mm long.

One spike of 11 flowers of good shape and unusual colour.

Somewhat lacking in size. The description of the flowers was of a cream base overlaid with deep salmon red. Labellum salmon red on edge deepening to brick red on inner, throat yellow. Column deep brick red, top yellow, side lobes evenly spotted salmon red.

Grower: Gray and Reid  
HCC/OCNZ 76.0 Points

### MALPASO CREEK 'NIM' HCC/OCNZ

(*devonianum* x TETHYS)

The dimensions of the flowers are precisely as published for last year's flower quality award. This year's blooming brought 13 spikes carrying 200 flowers and 5 buds, slightly in excess of 1988 and was endorsed as still growing in 150mm pot, arching spikes hanging evenly around pot, foliage clean.

Grower: N. Morris  
CCC/OCNZ Unanimous

### SCOTTS SUNRISE 'AURORA'

(MARY PRINCESS x KHYBER PASS) Natural spread 75mm; Dorsal sepal 28mm wide, 49mm long; Ventral sepals 28mm wide, 47mm long; Petals 20mm wide, 48mm long; Lip 27mm wide, 37mm long.

Two spikes of 24 flowers well presented on straight spikes. Described as being uniformly dark apricot overall, lip pink with wine spotting and yellow throat.

Grower: C. and M. King  
HCC/OCNZ 75.6 Points

### Marycano 'Amber Glow'





(Mary Pinchess x Volcano). Natural spread 78mm. Sepal length 46mm, width 30mm; Petal length 50mm, width 25mm; Labellum length 30mm, width 28mm.

Two spikes of 19 flowers total. This plant had previously received an H.C.C. and was upgraded on this occasion.

Grower: R. & N. Armstrong  
AM/NZOS

Unregistered grex 'SUNRAE'

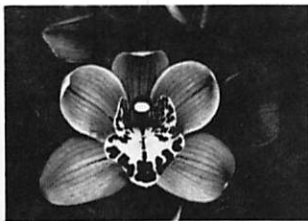


(Dolly x Hazel Tyers) Natural spread 85mm; Sepal length 54mm, width 32mm; Petal length 54mm, width 25mm; Labellum length 30mm, width 31mm.

Sepals and petals lemon yellow, petals with a cerise pink central stripe.

Grower: Sunrae Orchids  
HCC/NZOS

Unregistered grex 'Sunrae'



(Rincon x Pipeta) Natural spread 60mm; Sepal length 40mm, width 26mm; Petal length 40mm, width 25mm; Labellum length 25mm, width 27mm.

Dusky pink with maroon shading on sepals. Dark spotting on labellum.

Grower: Sunrae Orchids  
HCC/NZOS

Unregistered grex 'SUNRAE'



(Tom Thumb x Miss Muffet) Measurements not required.

Total of 6 pendulous spikes, 160 flowers. Colour green flushed with red-bronze. Shape favouring devonianum.

Grower: Sunrae Orchids  
CC/NZOS

Unregistered grex 'Drury Hills'



(GOLD RUN x Trinity Hall) Natural spread 103mm; Sepal length 52mm, width 43mm; Petal length 53mm, width 30mm; Labellum length 33mm, width 33mm.

1 upright spike of 11 flowers and 1 bud. Colour lemon yellow with a pale rose flush at the base of sepals and petals.

Grower: O. & I. Cooper  
HCC/NZOS

Alison Shaw 'Raspberry Sherbet'

(Lady Bug x Pink Champagne) Natural spread 65mm; Sepal length 34mm, width 20mm; Petal length 41mm, width 19mm; Labellum length 27mm, width 22mm.

2 spikes, 1 of 16 flowers, 1 of 15 buds. Colour deep rose pink.

Grower: Sunrae Orchids  
HCC/NZOS

Devon Parish 'Harris Tweed'



(devonianum x parishii) Natural spread 52mm. Sepal length 33mm, width 17mm; Petal length 32mm, width 12mm; Labellum length 22mm, width 13mm.

Colour yellow-green with red striping. 5 spikes and 110 flowers.

Grower: Geyslerland Orchids  
HCC/NZOS

One Tree Hill 'Geyslerland'



(Dolly 'Featherhill' 4n x Caraki 'Margaret' 4n) Natural spread 70mm. Sepal length 46mm, width 26mm; Petal length 43mm, width 25mm; Labellum length 31mm, width 28mm.

1 spike, 13 flowers and 1 bud. Bright yellow with slight red veining. Bold lip.

Grower: Geyserland Orchids  
HCC/NZOS

**PATRICIA FRENCH  
'PEACH'**



(WALLARA x YOWIE FLAME)  
Natural spread 85mm; Dorsal sepal 39mm wide, 65mm long; Ventral sepals 36mm wide, 60mm long; Petals 30mm wide, 60mm long; Lip 35mm wide, 38mm long.

One spike of eleven flowers on a straight stem held well above the foliage. Also quite small but a good colour. Flowers described as yellow with mauve spots and veining, dark centre veins on each sepal and petal. Labellum edged white with solid mauve/pink bar extending to side lobes, white throat with yellow crest. Column magenta with lemon base.

Grower: Gray and Reid  
HCC/OCNZ 76.0 Points

**BUD MARCH 'ROSETTA'**  
(BALKIS x SHIRAZ)



An enormous plant, very well grown, with 21 spikes all round displaying 276 flowers and 16 buds.

Although carrying only two more spikes than when previously awarded a CCC/OCNZ in 1987, this plant has been successfully repotted and indeed a remarkable cultural feat.

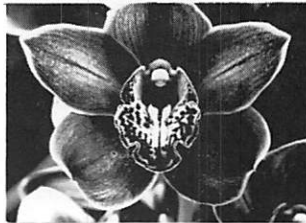
CCC/OCNZ Unanimous  
(Also awarded CCC/OCNZ in 1987)

Measurements not required. Very large plant with 22 spikes and 330 flowers.

CC/NZOS

Grower: Jack van Damm

**PATRICIA FRENCH  
'RED DELIGHT'**



(WALLARA x YOWIE FLAME)  
Natural spread 96mm, Dorsal sepal 40mm wide, 65mm long; Ventral sepals 40mm wide, 65mm long; Petals 31mm wide, 65mm long; Lip 32mm wide, 37mm long.

The fourth clone of this cross to achieve a flower quality award this year and another on the small side. Again colour and balance has carried it through. One upright stem of 8 flowers having yellow petals overlaid with dark coral, sepals yellow with darker coral forming a matt finish. Yellow edging around all extremities. A distinctive labellum with velvet finish.

Grower: Gray and Reid  
HCC/OCNZ 75.0 Points

**CITATION 'CANARY'**

(DORAMA x WALLARA)  
Natural spread of flower 97mm.



Standard cymbidium carrying 6 spikes totalling 61 flowers, well displayed upright above the foliage. Flower a clear mid-yellow with red band on lip.

CCC/OCNZ Unanimous

Measurements not required. 6 spikes, 61 flowers. A beautiful clean plant with beautifully presented flowers.

CC/NZOS

Grower: Jean Allen

**TOUCHSTONE  
'MAHOGANY'**

(devonianum x MISSION BAY)  
Natural spread of flower 51mm.

An exceptionally well cultured plant bearing 31 pendulous spikes from around the whole circumference. 462 flowers, and 220 buds—sepals and petals dark mahogany, lip deep burgandy.

CCC/OCNZ Unanimous

Measurements not required. Another well grown plant. 31 spikes with approximately 760 flowers plus many buds.

CC/NZOS

Grower: Sunrae Orchids

# ODONT ALLIANCE

## Oncidium UN-NAMED GREX 'GISBORNE'



(*macranthum* x *chrysodipterum*)  
Natural spread 71mm; Dorsal sepal 37mm wide, 35mm long; Ventral sepals 29mm wide, 51mm long; Petals 25mm wide, 35mm long; Lip 5mm wide, 21mm long.

Three spikes bearing 35 flowers and 4 buds. A fine mix of typical *Oncidium* colourings, the flower having sepals of light brown, the dorsal with a yellow margin. Petals yellow with reddish brown spotting and markings centrally. Lip yellow overlaid with light brown on upper 2/3rds, callus white with yellow margin.

HCC/OCNZ 76.1 points

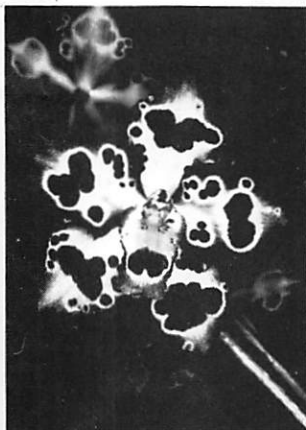
Natural spread 71mm, Dorsal sepal length 35mm, width 37mm; Ventral sepals length 51mm, width 29mm; Petal length 35mm, width 25mm;

Typical *macranthum* spike habit. 3 meandering spikes, 35 flowers, 4 buds. 8 immature branches. Grand Champion NZOS Spring Show.

HCC/NZOS

Grower: Geyserland Orchids

## Odontioda SHELLEY ANNE 'RAROA'



(*Oda.* SHELLEY x *Oda.* ANNE BOLEYN) One spike of 14 flowers. Natural spread 68mm; Dorsal sepal 27mm wide, 36mm long; Ventral sepals 25mm wide, 36mm long; Petals 25mm wide, 34mm long; Lip 16mm wide, 21mm long.

An excellent example of this line of breeding, the flower basically white with pink blushing, darker at the edges and with dark pink blotches. Lip similar to petals and sepals but with yellow in the centre.

AM/OCNZ 81.1 Points

Natural spread 68mm; Dorsal sepal length 36mm, width 27mm; Petal length 36mm, width 25mm; Labellum length 21mm, width 16mm.

Arching spike of 14 flowers which were not large but when breeding is considered were quite acceptable.

AM/NZOS

Grower: Frank Brljevic

## Vuylstekeara WAIKANAE LACE 'MONA'

(*Vuyl.* CAMBRIA x *Oda.* LIPPETOR) Natural spread 98mm; Dorsal sepal 33mm wide, 49mm long; Ventral sepals 28mm wide, 59mm long; Petals 36mm wide, 50mm long; Lip 52mm wide, 47mm long.

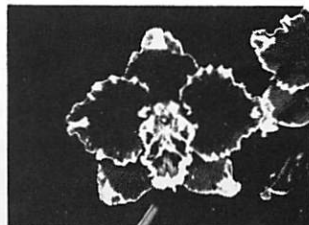


One spike of 8 flowers. An excellent flower quite outstanding in size, especially the lip. Very good shape. Stem and flower arrangement along with low flower count preclude a higher score. The flowers having petals and sepals of burgundy and white patterning changing to deep mauve with dominant central burgundy marking and spotting/peppering over the lower white portion. Strong gold centre, staminode deep wine with irregular white spots.

Grower: N. W. Porter

HCC/OCNZ 75.25 Points

## Odontoglossum CRUTORDO 'MONA'



(*Cruentum* x *Tordonia*) registered 1959. Natural spread 90mm; Sepal length 45mm, width 38mm; Petal length 41mm, width 33mm; Labellum length 32mm, width 22mm.

One attractive spike of 9 flowers and 1 bud. Colour white with a solid overlay of burgundy, leaving tips of both sepals and petals white.

Grower: Alf Day

HCC/NZOS

## Wilsonara Jean Du Pont 'Christmas Tree'

(*Oda.* Carmine x *Onc.* leucochilum) Natural spread 44mm; Sepal length 28mm, width 12mm; Petal length 29mm,



Oda. Shelly Anne 'Raroa'  
Grower: F. Brljevich



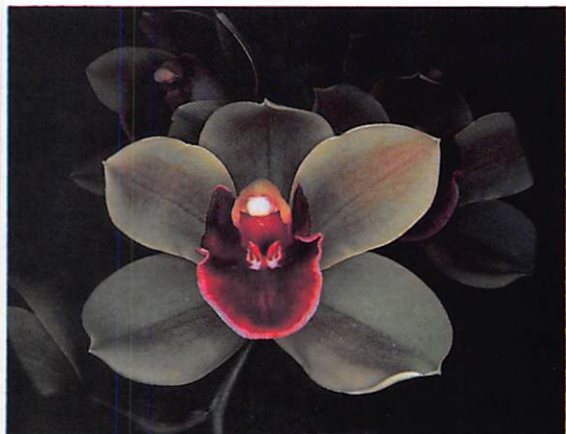
Paph. armeniacum  
Grower: Papa Aroha Orchids

Paph. (Lyxel x sukhakulii)  
'Papa Aroha'  
Grower: Papa Aroha Orchids



## *A. M. Awards* 1989

Cym. Jack Hadlow 'Waikanac'  
Grower: Geyserland Orchids





*A. M. Awards*  
*1989*



Left: Cym. Marycamo 'Amber glow'. Grower: R. & N. Armstrong  
Right: Paph. malipoense 'Coromandel'. Grower: B. Fraser

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width 14mm; Labellum length 29mm, width 18mm.

Well named. Typical Christmas Tree inflorescence 103 flowers and 2 buds on 16 branches. When compared with the clone 'Fleur' shown in Vol 15, No. 6, perhaps this plant should also have been considered for CC/NZOS as well. Colour light red with mauve tips on sepals and petals.

Grower: Geyslerland Orchids  
HCC/NZOS

**Wilsonara Jean Du Pont  
'Tangerine'**

(Oda, Carmine x Onc. levcochilum) Natural spread 52mm; Sepal length 31mm, width 11mm; Petal length 32mm, width 14mm; Labellum length 22mm, width 16mm.

2 upright spikes of 36 flowers, 39 buds and 30 flowers, 37 buds respectively. Sepals and petals creamy yellow almost completely covered with orange-brown.

Grower: Geyslerland Orchids  
HCC/NZOS

## PAPHIOPEDILUM

An overall lack of flower quality awards when one considers the popularity of this genus.

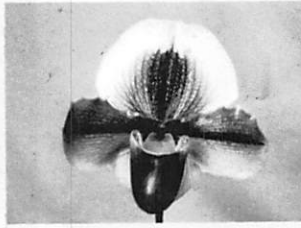
**Paphiopedilum JoANNE'S  
WINE 'PINOT NOIR'**

(VINTNER'S TREASURE x MAUDIAE) One vinicolour flower on a 290mm inflorescence. Natural spread 112mm; Dorsal sepal 50mm wide, 47mm long; Ventral sepal 15mm wide, 54mm long; Petals 12mm wide, 58mm long; Pouch 25mm wide, 54mm long.

Described as a very nice flower, petals a little narrow but still quite nicely balanced. The dorsal sepal was maroon with deep maroon veining. Petals rich maroon with warts and hairs on extremities. Pouch deep maroon.

Grower: Judy Coburn  
HCC/OCNZ 78.7 Points

**Paphiopedilum UN-NAMED  
GREX 'OREWA'**



(HELLAS x RANCHERO) Described as being of good shape but lacking a little in strength of colour, this flower had an overall width of 123.5mm; Dorsal sepal 90mm wide, 67mm long; Ventral sepal 58.5mm wide, 51.5mm long; Petals 44mm wide, 68mm long; Pouch 36.5mm wide, 57mm long.

The dorsal sepal had a central fan of light olive green merging to light chocolate in the centre and an outside white margin. Petals of similar colouration but without white margin. Pouch glossy light brown.

Grower: Cliff Collis  
HCC/OCNZ 75.7 Points

**Paphiopedilum KEELINGII  
'WAIKAWA'**

(chamberlainianum x parishii) This attractive primary hybrid bore 5 flowers and 1 bud on two spikes. Natural spread of 112mm; Dorsal sepal 48mm wide, 40mm long; Ventral sepal 25mm wide, 39mm long; Petals 10mm wide, 85mm long; Pouch 20mm wide, 55mm long.

The dorsal sepal had very evenly spaced and defined striping of apple green and maroon with white margin. Ventral sepal apple green. Petals, twisted, green apically with hirsute warts, spotted with burgundy, magenta towards ends. The substance and texture were defined as very good.

Grower: Alistair King  
HCC/OCNZ 75.0 Points

**Paphiopedilum Unregistered  
grex 'Papa Aroha'**

(Lyxel x sukhakulii) Natural spread 135mm; Dorsal sepal width 64mm, length 59mm; Petal width 24mm, length 71mm; Pouch width 31mm, length 55mm.

This flower received a similar award from O.C.N.Z. and photo and measurements were published in Vol 15, No. 6.

Grower: B. Fraser  
AM/NZOS

**Paphiopedilum Unregistered  
grex 'Papa Aroha'**



(Great Pacific x Via Recompensa) Natural spread 125mm; Dorsal width 94mm, length 75mm; Petal length 75mm, width 53mm; Pouch length 56mm, width 34mm.

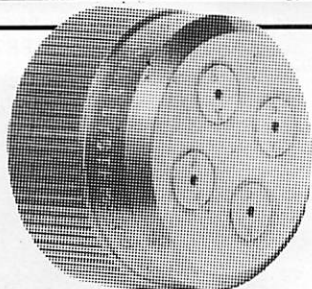
Dorsal white, heavily spotted maroon petals. Brown fading to green on the lower margin. Stem slightly short.

Grower: B. Fraser  
HCC/NZOS

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# CATTLEYA

## ALLIANCE

1989 was not a great year for this alliance and again one wonders if a lot of material is under wraps.

### *Sl.* MARRIOTTIANA 'FLARES'



(*L. flava* x *S. coccinea*) A delightful diminutive plant with a charming display of blooms. Excellent overall balance. Hybridized by the exhibitor, this plant carried 7 flowers on 2 spikes.

Natural spread being 21mm; Dorsal sepal 4.2mm wide, 30mm long; Ventral sepal 11.0mm wide, 26.5mm long; Petals 17.5mm wide, 30mm long; Labellum 7.0mm wide, 17.5mm long.

The flower colour under natural light was rich golden yellow with red flaring on petal and sepal extremities.

Grown by: I. D. James  
HCC/OCNZ 78.8 Points

### *Slc.* UN-NAMED GREX 'MANAKAU'

(*Slc.* ORIENT AMBER x *C. bicolor*) Two flowering bulbs, 2 spikes bearing 9 flowers.

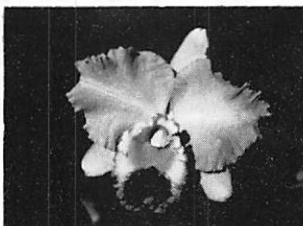
Natural spread 111mm; Dorsal sepal 25mm wide, 67mm long; Ventral sepals 25mm wide, 59mm long; Petals 45mm wide, 56mm long; Labellum 37mm wide, 49mm long.

Flowers light brown/orange with solid red lip.

Grower: Sherlock's Orchids  
HCC/OCNZ 76.6 Points



*Blc.* TEMPLE BELLS  
'PEACE'



(*Blc.* LYDA TAYLOR x *C. HORACE*) Natural spread 155mm; Dorsal sepal 35mm wide, 80mm long; Ventral sepals 30mm wide, 72mm long; Petals 80mm wide, 80mm long; Labellum 55mm wide, 80mm long.

Flower lavender pink in colour, yellow throat with large crimson blotch at the base of the labellum which was edged pink. Described as nicely proportional and well balanced, this single flower on a single spike certainly impacted upon the Judges as generally a hybrid of this parental background would be expected to display multiple floriferousness.

Grower: John McDonald  
HCC/OCNZ 75.0 Points

### *Hawkinsara* Enigma 'Variations'

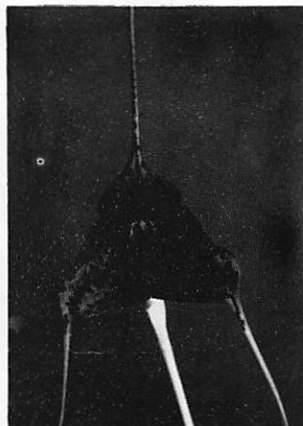
(*S.L.* Jinn x *Ctna* Keith Roth) Natural spread 58mm. Sepal length 28mm, width 15mm; Petal length 28mm, width 28mm; Labellum length 31mm, width 27mm.

A purple-red with a broad band of yellow on the upper lip. Typical Cattleytonia hybrid.

Grower: I. D. James  
HCC/NZOS

## Hybrid : Pleurothallidinae

### *Masdevallia* UN-REGISTERED GREX 'CHEETAH'



(*chaparensis* x *COPPER ANGEL*) Carrying 2 flowers and 1 bud this colourful *Masdevallia* had a natural spread of 30mm and a vertical spread of 84mm.

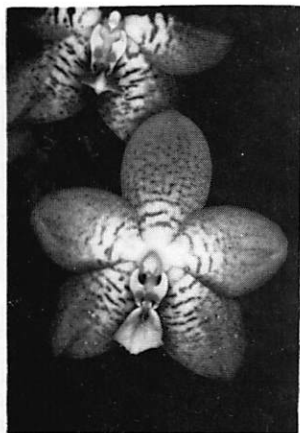
The body of the flower was pale orange heavily overlaid with a magenta suffusion thence heavily spotted deep magenta. Lip magenta. Petals and column cream. Caudae : Dorsal magenta; Ventrals yellow. The large panel of Judges were unanimous in acknowledging the unusual colour of this orchid bloom.

Grower: Val Bayliss  
AD/OCNZ

## PHALAEOPSIS

### *Phalaenopsis* Nancy Gordon 'Joy'

Natural spread 64mm. Sepal length 36mm, width 24mm; Petal length 31mm, width 22mm; Labellum length 18mm, width 13mm.



Colour gold with centres of sepals and petals white with tan concentric bars merging into spots on the gold.

Grower: D. van Beek

HCC/NZOS

*Phalaenopsis* Un-registered grex  
JEAN

(Red Hot Chili x Rosenzauber)

Measurements not required. Although the plant only carried 3 flowers, this clone received its award for its intense colour.

Grower: B. J. Main

AD/NZOS

See Colour Photo  
Conference Issue

## SPECIES

A delightful mix of established and recently discovered species gives further encouragement to the conservation of both endangered and domesticated orchids. The growers achieving the certificate of cultural commendation deserve special accolades for their superb efforts.

*Dendrobium thyrsiflorum*



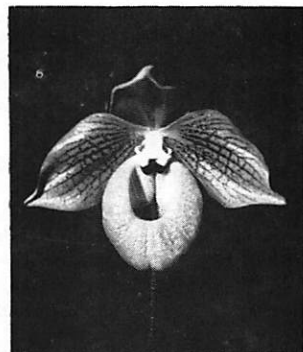
Natural spread 37mm.

This superb exhibit, the result of 7 years culture is indeed but one half of the overall plant. Divided earlier because it was assuming unmanageable proportions. Whilst 5 canes bore no flowers the remainder carried from one to three racemes (thyrses) per cane. In total 61 thyrses were fully open and carried 2,959 flowers. Each thyrses was evenly distributed around the plant and witness the effect of their weight upon many of the canes. The flowers are white dominated with a bright orange lip.

Grower: E. B. & H. C. Topp

HCC/OCNZ 86 Points

*Papahopedilum malipoense*  
'COROMANDEL'



Natural spread 120.5mm. Dorsal sepal 36mm wide, 55.5mm long; Ventral sepal 33mm wide, 56.5mm long; Petals 39mm wide, 66mm long; Pouch 46mm wide, 56mm long.

A single flower on a tall inflorescence, pale lime green petals with burgundy veins. Dorsal sepal a little darker with a few burgundy spots, pouch with interior spotting showing through to the outside. Staminode white with dark purple apex. Described as being of good size and form but colour a little pale.

Grower: Papa Aroha Orchids

AM/OCNZ 80.4 Points

*Catasetum expansum* 'MONA'

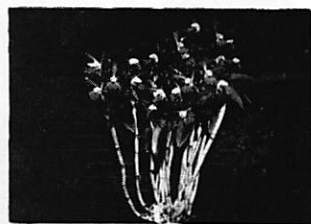
Natural spread 80mm. Dorsal sepal 11mm wide, 46mm long; Ventral sepals 11mm wide, 48mm long; Petals 22mm wide, 44mm long; Labellum 57mm wide, 50mm long.

Described as a nicely grown plant, 9 flowers on one 420mm inflorescence. Flowers yellow with green overlay, mahogany spotting, magenta throat. All tips of tepals folded at ends. Labellum heart shaped with serrated lower edge.

Grower: G. L. A. Day

HCC/OCNZ 76.7 Points

*Cattleya guttata* var *Leopoldii*



No measurements recorded. Described as being 900mm tall. Having 5 inflorescences bearing 30 flowers of very good strong colour. Sepals and petals were green/brown with purple spotting, labellum purple.

Grower: Shirley Chong

CCC/OCNZ

*Cymbidium erythrostylum*  
'GEYSERLAND' 4n

This tetraploid form of *C. erythrostylum* 'MAGNIFICUM' was judged by the majority of registrants at the 1989 National Judging Seminar. Opinions varied as to whether the standard cymbidium principles or the general point scale applied. Indeed a few declined jurisdiction.

Because the petals are clasped forward in this species, a full set of natural spread measurements are recorded. Across petals 34mm; across visible limits of flower 55mm; Vertical spread 122mm; Dorsal sepal 28mm wide, 63mm long; Ventral sepals 35mm wide, 59mm long; Petals 24mm wide, 50mm long; Lip 20mm wide, 42mm long.

Only a small plant blooming for the first time, it carried 2 spikes aggregating 11 flowers which were sparkling crystalline white, the lip with bolder red striations and dotting than in the diploid form.

Grower: Geyslerland Orchids  
HCC/OCNZ 75.0 Points

*Zygopetalum mackayii* 'LEE'



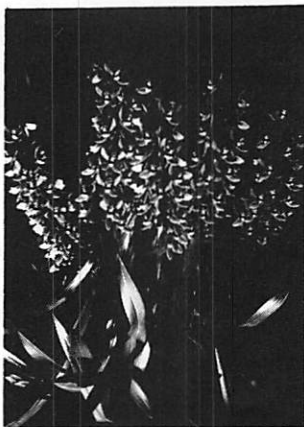
Natural spread 80.5mm.

Described as a well grown plant with clean foliage bearing 1 spike with 6 flowers, a large

panel of Judges were unanimous in awarding this distinctively colourful orchid. The petals and sepals were basally pale green, almost totally overlaid with olive brown. Lip off white heavily covered with a rich dark violet striping and brushing.

Grower: Ross Tucker  
AD/OCNZ

*Dendrobium miyakii* 'EDEN'



Natural spread 31mm.

Described as a very well grown plant with clean foliage and larger than usual canes, roughly equal in size to a height of 800mm. With 6 flowering bulbs, 50 spikes bearing 739 flowers and 29 buds. The Judges recorded a unanimous verdict in respect of this excellent cultural effort but are reminded that a certificate of cultural commendation has a designated point scale. The flowers of deep magenta with darker veining and a prominent yellow pollen cap are quite striking.

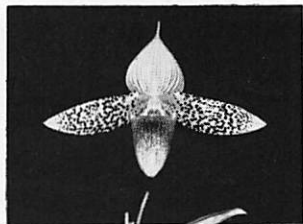
CCC/OCNZ

Measurements are not required for CC/NZOS. Plant carried tightly packed flowers on each of 5, 800mm canes.

CC/NZOS

Grower: David Campbell

*Paphiopedilum sukhalukii*  
'MAXWELL'



With overall flower dimensions generally larger than usual for this species, the 1 flower on 1 spike had a natural spread of 152mm; Dorsal sepal 44mm wide, 55mm long; Ventral sepal 34mm wide, 44mm long; Petals 24mm wide, 80mm long; Pouch 34mm wide, 62mm long.

Dorsal sepal white with vertical apple green stripes. Very fine spotting at base of dorsal. Wide petals with an apple green background, deeper green on inner and merging to chartreuse at the tips. Distinctive heavy maroon/brown spotting. Fine brown and green hairs on the edges becoming finer towards the outer aspect of the petals. Large pouch, lilac/brown at the apex, lightening towards the base. Extensive deeper veining. Lilac/Purple staminode. Ventral sepal white with apple green vertical stripes.

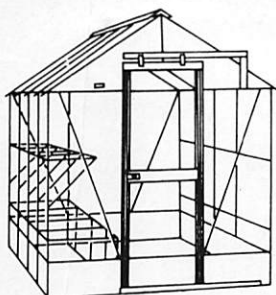
Grower: Dr K. H. Patterson  
HCC/OCNZ 77.0 Points

*Paphiopedilum micranthum*  
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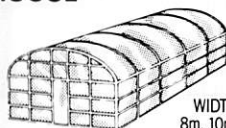
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Natural spread 77mm. Dorsal sepal 28mm wide, 30mm long; Ventral sepal 26.5mm wide, 25mm long; Petals 35mm wide, 40mm long; Pouch 51.5mm wide, 65.5mm long.

A single flower on a tall inflorescence, sepals and petals white, shaded with pale chartreuse, with rose-lilac veining becoming tessellated towards margins. Pouch white flushed pink with maroon spots on interior showing through to exterior. Staminode pinched, yellow, speckled maroon. This large flower was downgraded because of a small imperfection on the pouch and it was considered that the colour could have been more intense and vibrant.

Grower: Papa Aroha Orchids  
HCC/OCNZ 77.5 Points

*Paphiopedilum armeniacum*  
'Papa Aroha'

Natural spread 102mm. Dorsal width 36.2mm, length 40mm; Petal length 50mm, width 47mm; Pouch width 50mm.

Colour bright buttercup yellow typical for this species.

Grower: B. Fraser  
AM/NZOS

*Paphiopedilum rot'schildianum*  
'PAPA ARCHA'

Natural spread 264mm. Dorsal sepal width 49mm, length 65mm; Petal width 13mm, length 145mm; Labellum width 23mm, length 64mm.

1 spike of 3 flowers strip, sepals and petals clearly defined.

Grower: B. Fraser  
HCC/NZOS

*Paphiopedilum* 'Jessie Brown'

Plant, typical of the clean foliage 20 spikes flowers.

A. & J. Brown  
CC/NZOS

*Dendrobium Delicatum* 'DALE'



(Specio-kingianum)

Measurements not required. Total of 130 spikes carrying approximate 1560 flowers.

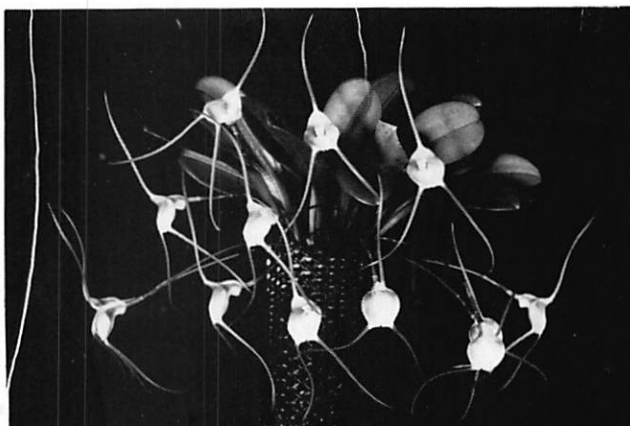
Grower: Eileen Frost  
CC/NZOS

*Sophranitis coccinea* 'Flambeau'

Measurements not required. Plant was only in a 60mm pot. 10 flowers and 3 buds on a well grown plant.

Grower: V. Bayliss  
CC/NZOS

*Masdevalia mejiana* 'Princess'



Vertical height 110mm, width 18mm; Sepal length 19mm with 50mm caudae, width 8mm.

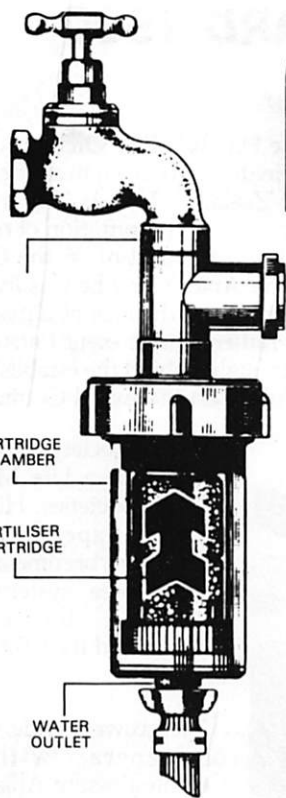
13 flowers, 1 bud. colour pearly white, finely dusted reddish beige. Caudae bright golden yellow.

Grower: V. Bayliss  
HCC/NZOS

*Den. delicatum* 'Sunrae'

Well grown plant, approximately 40 spikes with about 20 flowers per spike.

Grower: D. Young - Sunrae Orchids  
CC/NZOS



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# JOHN EASTON AWARD 1990

## Alf Day

**T**HIS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD, administered by the Hawke's Bay Orchid Society, is the only one of its kind in New Zealand and nominations are open to all members of Societies affiliated to the Orchid Council of New Zealand. The Award is made annually for "the most outstanding contribution to the culture and promotion of orchids in New Zealand". It was sponsored by the Immediate Past President of the Orchid Council and we have a copy on file of a letter written by Andy when he was living in Eugene, Oregon, U.S.A., dated June 1976 in which he mentions the idea of a plaque to be known as the John Easton Award in honour of his father. Our present Patron, Mr Arthur Dawson, had no hesitation in commending the thought behind the establishment of this Award and became the first Chairman of the John Easton Award Committee.

The Committee this year, under the Chairmanship of Mr W. Ross-Taylor were pleased to announce that **Mr G. L. A. (Alf) Day** would be the recipient. Alf had tremendous support from members of many Societies and there is no doubt that his generous nature—giving unstintingly of his time and expertise to many orchid growers—make him an ideal holder of the Award. He has been associated with orchids for over forty years—he is one of the main instigators and workers involved in the recent written history of Orchid Growers in New Zealand. With his wife Mona, he bought his first orchids in 1950—two *Paph. insigne*—and joined the New Zealand Orchid Society in 1953. Alf has attended and contributed to all the N.Z.O.S. Shows since the first competitive one in 1959 and was elected to the N.Z.O.S. executive



*Nominated by the New Zealand, the South Auckland, the Howick and the North Shore Orchid Societies.*

in the mid 1960's and served continuously in various capacities including President from 1985-1988. He has also been President of the South Auckland

Orchid Society and has been made a Life Member of both Societies. His wide generic experience has helped him become a Judge in all three systems, the N.Z.O.S., the Orchid Council and the CSA, N.Z. branch.

He grows a wide variety of genera, with the *Odontoglossum* Alliance as his particular interest. At monthly meetings of the N.Z.O.S. and the South Auckland Orchid Societies he regularly brings many well grown plants for display. He is generous with his plants which are given away without the complication of the trading table. Initially a ship's engineer his technical skills are freely available also. Undoubtedly the construction of the Logan Brewer designed combined Auckland Societies display in the 13 WOC Show will be his crowning achievement.

Alf is a confirmed bibliophile, collecting and reading old orchid books, a collection dating back to the early 1950's. With his extensive knowledge and a fine library he is in great demand for the provision of difficult to find orchid data.

His wide knowledge of orchids has made him a popular local speaker to a great variety of flower and garden clubs. His comprehensive knowledge is matched only by his cultural skills. A great all-rounder in the orchid world. ◀

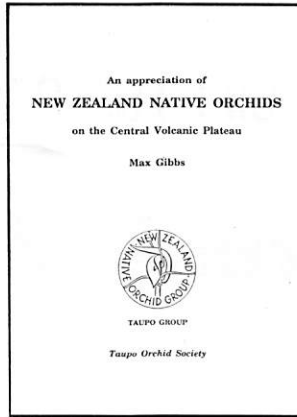
Mrs Iris Burge  
Secretary: The John Easton  
Award Committee

## BOOKS

A number of books have recently become available for review. Perhaps it has something to do with the weather!

The first book is An appreciation of New Zealand Native Orchids on the Central Volcanic Plateau. Written by Max Gibbs and published by the Taupo Orchid Society, it is priced around \$10.

This book has been around for some months. Of 60 pages, it introduces the native orchids of this country, and especially those found at the Iwitihi Native Orchid Reserve, a reserve located near Taupo and established by a



number of enthusiasts in that area. Containing drawings and brief descriptions of the orchids, it is designed to give a general introduction to the plants. In the main the description are to the generic level, only limited information is given of the individual species. The book includes a number of plants that the author states are not found in the region—for example *Cryptostylis subulata*, *Yuania australis* and *Corybas cryptanthus*, which seems inconsistent with the very specific title of the book. Perhaps for the next edition it may be more appropriate to confine the book to those orchids found locally and in particular at Iwitihi, and give more details of the species involved.

The other distinctive feature is the use of common names of the orchids. The author notes that the botanical names are currently in a state of

flux, hence the use of these common names. While many of them are widely known, such as the Onion Orchid (*Microtis*) and Sun Orchid (*Thelymitra*) some of the names would appear to have limited application throughout New Zealand. The use of the name Ladies' Slipper Orchid for *Dendrobium cunninghamii*, for example, will mystify most orchidists, and I think even the general reader from around the country will not be helped by its use.

The book serves as a useful introduction to the native orchids, and especially those found at Iwitihi, and will provide a very useful general introduction to the site, and what can be found. The author and the Taupo Orchid Society are to be congratulated on their conservation efforts and the publication of this introductory guide.

The New Zealand orchids: natural history and cultivation by Ian St George and Doug McCrae as well as a number of other contributors, and published by the New Zealand Native Orchid Group, is the second book, again concerning our native orchids. It comprises the first major public production of the New Zealand Native Orchid Group. As the name suggests it details those involved in the early (and



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even more recent) description of our orchid heritage. There are chapters on the naming of orchids, their structure, pollination systems, photography, and the role of a herbarium. The final chapters concern the cultivation and propagation of our native orchids, these final pages being of considerable value as they pass on years of accumulated experience. Many people have cultivated our orchids with varying degrees of success, and it is hoped this section will improve the survival rate of the plants collected.



This book mentions a number of 'new' orchids. It is perhaps unfortunate that a full description of some of the more recently discovered and described species could not be included, as this could have augmented much of the existing literature. Also, while considerable coverage is given to cultivation, the concerns of

conservation are not raised. A further book on conservation may be published, but the omission of this aspect in this publication could give the wrong impression to some readers, especially having regard to the objectives of the publisher, the New Zealand Native Orchid Group.

This 88 page book has a colour cover, and includes 8 pages of colour illustrations. Available from the N.Z. Native Orchid Group, it is priced at \$16 plus p. & p. It also includes a number of the outstanding line drawings of Bruce Irwin. While it does not assist with plant identification, those interested in the native orchids will find much to interest them; more general readers will find it provides considerable additional information to augment other books on the subject.

The third book is published in the United Kingdom: Dendrobiums, an introduction to the species in cultivation, by Sybella Schelpe and Joyce Stewart, published by Orchid Sundries Limited, U.K.

*Dendrobiums* are widely grown, but there is little widely available specific information regarding their culture, and this publication will, at least in part fill this need. *Dendrobium* is a very diverse genus. This book



covers some 15 of Schlechter's 40 odd sections—including most of those plants commonly grown in this country. There are a number of cultural points which growers will find of interest and assistance. It may even suggest plants you may like to acquire. The plants described are well illustrated by good colour photographs. In addition there are a number of general chapters on natural habitats and general cultivation suggestions.

This soft covered publication would find a well thumbed place in most orchid libraries. Its biggest limitation is its price, around \$50, but the extensive use of colour illustrations with their attendant expense justifies such a price, and having regard to most book prices today, I do not think anyone will be disappointed. ◀

P. C. Tomlinson  
Editor

# SUMMER ORCHID DISPLAY PUKEKURA PARK, NEW PLYMOUTH 12 and 13 January 1991

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# Cogito's Diary

**T**HE ORCHID EXPERIENCE of a lifetime. It approached, it was here, and it's in the past. One could hardly imagine to be part of a more valuable and instructive event. We all learned a lot; the organizers, the workers, the exhibitors, and not least the spectators.

The logistics for a show of this scale and world importance are difficult to fathom. The massive amount of work done by the hobbyist members of the Auckland societies had to be seen to be believed. They worked like beavers, regardless of sex or age. And they kept it up for the duration. Smiling, willing and very able.

The organizing committee has displayed the many sided competence that was needed. They were the people who justly received the acclaim and stood in the limelight at the various public functions. I am, however, sure that they will humbly acknowledge the unstinting contributions that were made by the untold orchid fanciers of Auckland.

Orchid people are a great group of human beings. This World Orchid Conference has many times been referred to as a hobbyist affair. The commercial people who were there in numbers will also recognise that "The Show" would not have been possible without the enormous lay input.



*Bill Fransen*

**At the Conference I told the Editor that he had received my last contribution. After almost 2½ years it is time that I stopped preaching to the converted. He said many nice things and twisted my arm a little, so here it is, my final and last effort. I wish all fellow fanciers a Happy and a Jolly Christmas Season. May you grow bigger, better, nicer and healthier plants in the years to come. ◀**

*Thanks Bill for your efforts. In particular Thank You for helping during my first issues. I know many readers will miss your interesting articles. You deserve a rest, but I do hope that perhaps you may still contribute an occasional article. Thank you from us all.*

*Editor*

## WHAT WE SAW

By Monday morning (Judgement Day!) hundreds of workers were "dead on their feet" and there were more of them by nightfall. One of the many volunteers that stand out in my mind is the guy who kept replenishing the coffee machines with water, coffee, milk, sugar, cocoa, cups and "stirrers". By Monday night he was only halfway through the huge task that he had set himself. There were people to sell raffle tickets. People to man (woman) information desks. People to work the computer. Runners to do the footslogging. Volunteers to deliver things that were ordered. Contractors installing more lights. Dogsbodies lugging orchids, ferns, trees, punga, rocks, staging, you name it. Men and women that checked plant names or gave advise on what classes to enter. We saw strained faces and happy ones. Most people were totally absorbed in what they were doing. I now apologise for not recognizing friends. It was a bit of a crazy time.



## WHAT WE LEARNED

One of the most almost-comical things to happen in the preamble of getting our plants to Auckland must have been our efforts to speed up and delay flowering times. I've toted plants to chillers and to warm from cool and vice-versa. Some responded beautifully and others refused to be disciplined or should have been tackled three months earlier than they were. A few should have had longer and brighter daylight rather than heat, or all three.

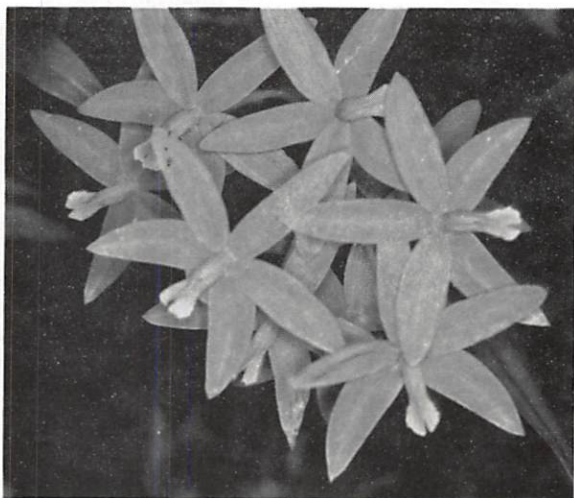
As a result many plants were past their best, or were in full glory a week or more after the show. Many people who exhibited warm growing plants saw them wilt and wither in temperatures that were alpine rather than tropical. On the other hand many of the cool growers lasted longer. The air humidity dropped severely towards the latter half of the show. Many of the media that were nice and moist early on had totally lost that moisture later. Consequently some displays (through thousands of shuffling feet) finished up under a film of fine brown dust.

Many of the plants that were not entered (into the computer) for judging would have beaten first place getters. Quite a few



*Top: Papa Aroha Orchids Display — 13th W.O.C.*

*Bottom: Laelia kautskyii — L. & R. Orchids*





plants were disqualified because they had been entered in the wrong class. Some slipped through and got placed. A few people learned that a specimen plant is a different proposition (and class) than a species plant. If I was lucky enough to obtain the top 5% of the plants that weren't placed and another top 5% of the plants that were not entered for judging I would have the best orchid collection in the world (well . . . in New Zealand anyway).

Display-wise the Conference was an eye opener as well. The displays that had only a few plants in them had a tidier look about them and more attention was drawn to individual plants. Most displays which had massed displays of cymbidiums or other plants of just the one genus lost individuality of single plants. One could not see the wood for the trees as it were. The same more or less applied to displays that had a depth that was greater than about 2m if it meant that the public had to view the plants from a greater distance. I once heard an old campaigner observe: "The best plant, by itself, placed on an applebox in an unadorned open space will still become the champion". Maybe he said "should", I'm not quite sure. Such a show would be a rather dull affair to all but the outright purists. I think that in such



Wairarapa Orchid Society Display — 13th W.O.C.



Kaitaia & Districts Orchid Society Display — 13th W.O.C.

cases the computer generated prize cards at least should be somewhat more luxurious. So people are taken into account and thousands of plants rather than a few make a fascinating show.

The lectures and talks were very interesting. Some were surprisingly basic but still well worth attending. In this important facet of the World Orchid Conference New Zealander's apparently

showed more interest than has been shown at most previous conferences. On the first lecture day Room 3 proved to be many times too small so that a quick adjustment had to be made. The most absorbing talk (with slides) was given by Aussie Snow Peterson. He invariably sails very close to the wind but was he funny! I'm still wondering if the ventilation systems in the lecture rooms were working. If they did, they were highly ineffective.

The commercial sales area received more than average attention. At most

times on most days the place was chockerblock full. I am sure that I bought more plants than I'll know what to do with in a few years time but this was a very special occasion wasn't it? Most orchid fanciers as well as many members of the public had a glazed or slightly stunned look in their eyes while shuffling through there. I for one must have been bitten by the same bug because I managed to detour through that area every day. Yes, it was a great show. Well done everybody. ◀

## Change in Distributor

Trevor Nicholls of Taupo has most efficiently acted as magazine distributor of the last 16 issues. The responsibility for this important function has now been taken over by Betty Featherston, of Whangarei.

I am sure all readers will extend thanks to Trevor for his work over the last 3 years. I must also express my thanks for the assistance he gave me during the first few issues in particular, as I found out the details of the production of this magazine. Thanks Trevor, and I hope your phallies will appreciate the extra time you will now be able to devote to them.

For all matters concerning distribution, please now direct them to Miss Betty Featherston — her address is P.O. Box 983, Whangarei. Welcome Betty, and I hope that your work as a valued member of the magazine team will be both pleasurable and rewarding. ◀

## PAPH FANS

For some time now I have been considering setting up a group for those people who, like myself, enjoy growing and reading about *paphiopedilum* orchids. I am a Member of Taps (The Australian Paphiopedilum Society) but feel it would be beneficial to have a similarly operating group within New Zealand. At the WOC in Auckland I listened to various

speakers on paphs and consider perhaps now is the right time for slipper sleuths to band together.

My purpose at the moment is to find out just how much interest there is and invite people to submit their views with the possibility of having a meeting one weekend during the summer.

Please enclose a S.A.E. with your letter for reply.

Lyn Sherlock  
Atkins Road  
Manakau  
RD Otaki



## COMPETITION

Did you note the mistake in the last issue? Well, it was not really a competition but rather the wrong slide in the wrong pocket, and the result of

more haste, less speed. The cover orchid was *Oncidium Beatrice Emery* (*stramineum* x *aurisasinorum*). With the rush of the Conference issue, I knew something would go wrong!!

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13th World  
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Top:  
Auckland Societies Combined Display  
— Awarded Gold Medal.

Bottom:  
*Cymbidium Gladys Whitesell*  
'The Charmer'  
Grand Champion of Show.