



*Orchids*  
*in New Zealand*

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October 1991

Australian

# Orchid

Review

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# Orchids

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NEW ZEALAND ORCHID SOCIETY

VOL. 17 No. 5

OCTOBER 1991

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# CYMBIDIUMS . . .

## . . . WHEREFORE ART THOU CYMBIDIUMS

**I**T WAS through growing *Cymbidiums* that most New Zealander's entered the fascinating world of orchid growing. It was in the 1970's and early 1980's that the real expansion of orchid growing (read *Cymbidium* growing) occurred. It was during this period that many of the current orchid societies had their genesis. Visit many of the society shows of the era and what did you see — mostly *Cymbidiums* and even more *Cymbidiums*. Those societies where the *Cymbidiums* did not dominate were considered unusual during this period. There was a demand, and even unsatisfied demand, for plants, and many of the specialist orchid nurseries were established at this time. The sight of people queuing outside the door of shows waiting for them to open, with the rush to the plant sales areas, will be something many will remember with nostalgia. Plants of even indifferent quality were rapidly snatched up by eager growers who just HAD to expand their collections.

For those running orchid shows, there was little need to advertise. Even with modest effort a rush of visitors seemed assured, with financial success a certainty. The societies and specialist nurseries over a number of years did a magnificent job of promoting the interest of orchid, and especially *Cymbidium*, growing. Soon many plants became widely available. Plants in flasks, especially seedlings, became popular, and soon the market became almost saturated with these plants, many of indifferent quality. The expansion of flower production for export meant that many reject clones were also placed on the market for purchase by amateur growers. Over the years the *Cymbidiums* lost much of their mystique, with plants frequently displayed and made available in garden centres, malls, and even from stands on the sides of

roads. Also, there became a widening interest in other types of orchids throughout the country, and these

'other' orchids took the place of *Cymbidiums* for many orchid growers.

While for many *Paphiopedilums*, *Cattleyas*, *Lycastes*, *Odonts* and many other types became the favourites, most growers still retained some *Cymbidiums* in their collections. The number of *Cymbidiums* now displayed at shows has significantly fallen, but we must not forget these plants. While for many growers they may have fallen from grace, with their widespread availability from more local sources, and with their low costs, many more people are now personally experiencing the pleasure of growing these plants. Many of these are not orchid fanciers as most would understand the term, they are people who just like growing interesting plants. Herein lies an opportunity for the orchid societies, to interest

### editorial



Orchids in New Zealand  
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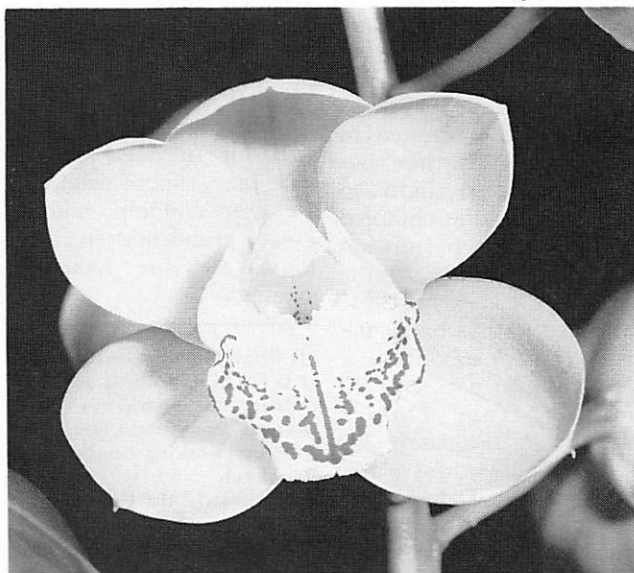
them in the wider world of orchid growing, and to attract them into the formal organisations. While they may only own a few plants, with imagination they may be able to be shown the wider interest. With their demand for 'cultural information in books etc., there is an opportunity here for societies if only they can exploit it. Even in areas well served by orchid societies, there still appear to be orchid growers who do not know of their existence, or from where they can obtain basic growing advice.

There seems to be something of a resurgence of interest in *Cymbidium* orchids, although little has been published about these plants in this and other magazines in recent years — not through a lack of interest in **Orchids in New Zealand's** case, but simply because of a lack of contributed material. This countries' specialist *Cymbidium* organisation, the **Cymbidium Society of America, New Zealand Branch**, has run seminars on *Cymbidiums*, and we have pleasure in presenting some papers from a recent seminar, as it is believed these will be of wider interest to readers of this magazine. Perhaps it will encourage further contributions from readers on these plants, which hold such a firm place in the history of orchid growing in this country. ◀



Top: *Cym.* Claude Pepper 'Raroa' HCC/OCNZ 1990  
Grower: F. Brljevič

Bottom: *Cym.* (Ygraine x Pendragon) 'Raroa'  
AM/NZOS 1990 Grower: F. Brljevič



## VALE: Charlie Scott

**I**T WAS with deep regret that we learned of the death of Charlie Scott at the end of May. Charlie was our first Life Member and had done a lot for this Nelson Society and its members over the years. The first entry in the Society's minute book dated 21st March 1979 contains the following passage 'Mr J. C. Scott, the convenor of the meeting' thus started our Society and Charlie's involvement in it.

He took a very active part in its running until standing down from the committee at the 1984 AGM. Over the past few years ill health has kept him away from meetings but he still took an interest in our activities.

Charlie was born in the deep south at Gore and shifted to Nelson from Ashburton in 1955. He worked for Buxtons for eight years as their machinery rep. In the early sixties he started his nursery in Annesbrook Drive at first growing bedding plants for Woolworths, it appears that he was interested in orchids by this time but was finding it hard to obtain plants, he obtained Reserve Bank permission to import flasks towards the end of 1963 early 1964. One of the first being the cross *Cym. Vieux Rose* x *Del Rosa*, at a cost of 25 pounds from Dorset Orchids in England. By now the nurse was a full time business and in 1965 he and his wife Jane opened a garden shop in Putaitai Street, Stoke. In 1969 he and Jane attended the World Orchid Conference in Sydney and

like most of us returned home with many plants. The next decade was a very busy time as people learned about the orchid nursery, sometimes arriving by the bus load to have a look around. There are many people in Nelson, for that matter New Zealand who owe their early orchid knowledge to Charlie and Jane Scott. They sold their nursery business in the mid 1980's and retired to their ownership flat and hobby glasshouse in Stoke. In 1988 Charlie was awarded the John Easton award for his contribution to Orchiding in New Zealand.

He is survived by his wife Jane, their 6 children, 16 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. To them all our heartfelt sympathy. ◀

---

Mr Brian Molloy scientist based at D.S.I.R. Lincoln is about to embark on a trip to Kew Gardens later in the year. He will be working on Orchid Research while there. Unfortunately the Government will no longer fund scientists for overseas research. The Canterbury Orchid Society are donating \$500 for this important research, all other donations can be sent to Brian Molloy c/-DSIR Lincoln.

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### ANOTHER VIDEO

In addition to the Videos publicised in the June 1991 issue of **Orchids in New Zealand**, the Slide Video Library holds copies of the American Orchid Society video **An Introduction to Orchids**. This is a video shot on location in Costa Rica, California and New Jersey. Introducing the biology, cultivation and history of orchids for the novice as well as the experienced professionals. Running time is 33 minutes.

Orchid Society members who wish to view in their own homes must place orders through their society secretaries who will be responsible for the return of videos which should be within 21 days of receipt. This is a service to affiliated societies and their members.

Cost is \$10 per video and cheques should be made out to the Orchid Council of N.Z. and not to the Slide and Video Librarian personally.

Penalty for lost videos — \$100 each. ◀

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## *Feature of the Month*

### **PETER PAN 'GREENSLEEVES'**

At a recent seminar of the Cymbidium Society (N.Z. Branch), a number of papers were presented concerning this plant.

It is with pleasure we present the papers contributed by a number of authors.

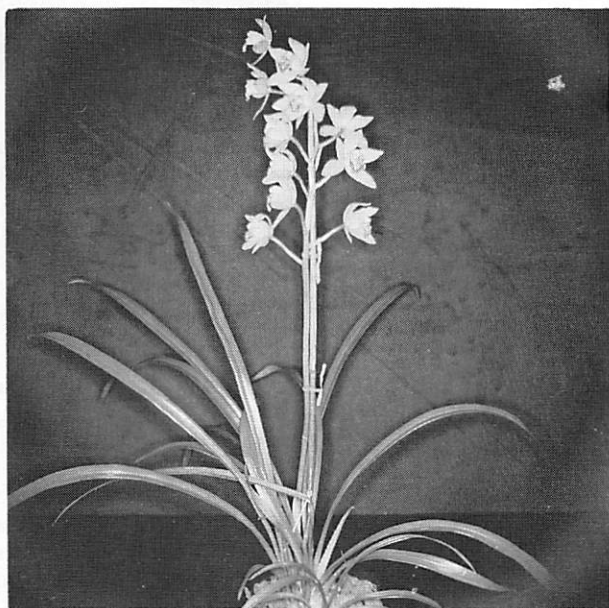
### **THE BEST FIRST GENERATION PETER PAN 'GREENSLEEVES' 4n HYBRID I HAVE SEEN**

Since we have been having these early flowering cymbidium seminars, I have found it convenient to maintain my own list of registered Peter Pan hybrids with details of Awards from the Awards Quarterly, the Advocate and from NZOS and NZ Orchid Council lists.

My present score is 71 Registered Primary Hybrids with 15 Registered Secondary Hybrids. There are a few not yet registered which makes it difficult for all but the grower.

Of the 71 Primary Hybrids 17 have received 53 Awards mostly Bronze Medals or HCCs but two have had AMs. To my recollection and reading, so far none of the registered Secondary Hybrids have been awarded, but two of the unregistered have been awarded one Primary and one Secondary.

Today I have been asked to choose which of the



*Cym.* Peter Pan 'Greensleeves' 4n x self  
Photo: M. Bonham

Primary Hybrids I like best, not an easy task and I have spent a long time looking up awards and photographs to try and avoid missing a good one.

The summary of awards to Primary Hybrids makes interesting reading and the following list quotes year of registration, the number of awards and the year of the last award:-

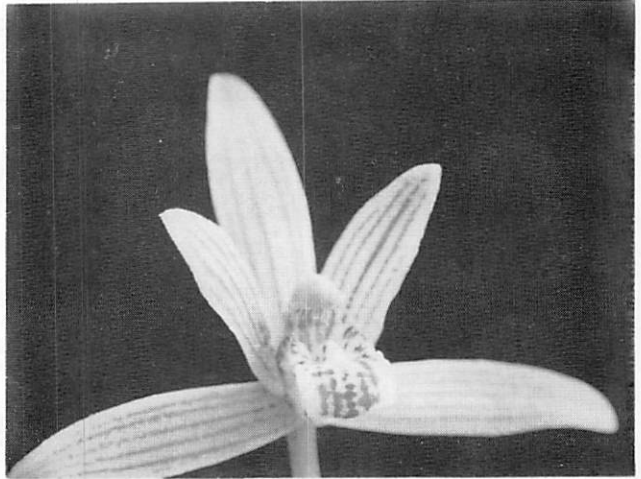
Autumn Green		
1979	3	1987
Dear Lisa		
1982	4	1983
Dr S Conrow		
1981	3	1984
Everglades		
1981	2	1989
One an AD for lip.		
Jade Willow		
1979	2	1980
One AM.		
Koripan		
1982	1	1980
Maureen Grapes		
1984	3	1989
Mesa Zia		
1982	2	1983
Mini Lady		
1983	1	1986
Play Misty		
1984	1	1988
Rolling Stone		
1986	1	1989
Runaway		
1989	1	1989
Sue		
1980	4	1986
Summer Nights		
1982	1	1982
Sunbreeze		
1989	3	1988
One AM.		
Valentines Love		
1980	18	1985

Wild Colonial Boy  
1989 3 1989  
Not Registered—  
Unreg. Grex 'Tatsue'  
(Beaconfire x Peter Pan 4n)

Before proceeding to dissect the plants further we should ask what are the hybridizers objects in this *ensifolium* field?

short list. Peter Pan is 4n unless otherwise stated.

AUTUMN GREEN, Peter Pan x Peetie, originated by Kawano in 1979 and an HCC for 'Golden Charm' from the AOS in 1987. The flower is of good shape and good yellow green colour with a



*Cym. ensifolium*

As I understand the aims they were to produce early blooming, some degree of heat tolerance, maintain miniature characteristics but with an erect spike habit and retain some fragrance.

If we assume that standards are improving, and that judging is reasonably consistent then a 75 point award in 1989 should be a good deal better than a 75 point award in 1979. Taking plants with awards of BM or HCC from 1986 on and both AM plants we have a

dotted lip, and overall 90mm. (AQ 1988 19/103).

EVERGLADES *parishii* (*sanderæ*) x Peter Pan, has an AD for the solid red velvety lip on 'Royal Salute' a 75mm flower seen at Santa Barbara in 1989, and a BM for 'Carino' with 76.1 points, a 51mm cream flower. (Advoc. 1989-5 and 1990-1)

I cannot recall Jade Willow, Koripan, or Mini Lady sufficiently or find their photos so they must drop out.



MAUREEN GRAPES  
Sussex Moor 4n x Peter  
Pan 4n has three awards.  
'Tatsue' BM CSA 77.7  
points for a 57mm flower  
in 1985 (Advoc. 1986-4).

#### 'Meadowpark'

BM CSA 77.35 points for a  
71mm flower in 1988  
(Advoc. 1988-3) and HCC  
76 points for an 81mm  
flower in 1989. This is a  
well shaped flower of good  
colour if slightly cupped

#### ROLLING STONE

Peter Pan x Doris Aurea,  
has a BM CSA 75.5 points  
for a 78mm flower, the  
dorsal is slightly hooded  
(Advoc. 90-1).

#### RUNAWAY.

Radiant Harry x Peter  
Pan, an excellent spike of  
'Pink Cloud' survived the  
trip to Santa Barbara last

year and won a BM CSA at  
78 points for a 65mm  
flower. (Advoc. 1989-5).  
The shape of this one is  
excellent and the colour is  
uniform pink without  
suffusion or stripes  
although the lip colour is  
not as striking as several  
others the lip is good and  
wide.

#### SUNBREEZE

Cariga x Peter Pan has had  
two BMs, from the CSA in  
1986 and 1987 for 'Nancy'  
each with 76.6 points the  
latter over here and then an  
AM by the AOS for 'Mem  
Suzie Miyashita' with 81  
points for an 83mm flower  
of good shape and a bold  
*lowianum* banded lip. (AQ  
1989 20/103).

Despite the good award  
history with a remarkable  
18 awards I drop

Valentines Love at this  
stage of the contest.

WILD COLONIAL BOY  
Coraki x Peter Pan a recent  
production with a flurry of  
interest. Three Bronzes of  
the CSA: 'Martha' with  
77.46 points, for a 75mm  
flower. 'Wolfgang' from  
Santa Barbara. If anything  
could be faulted it is the  
tendency to be a little  
cupped (Advoc. 1989-6,  
1989-5, 1990-1).

Runaway, Sunbreeze  
and Wild Colonial Boy are  
my shorter list and I hope  
to refresh my memories  
here today. In the absence  
of the finalists I shall pick  
Runaway 'Pink Cloud'  
from the line up at Santa  
Barbara where it came out  
ahead of Everglades and  
Wild Colonial Boy on that  
day.

Dennis Bonham

## SECOND GENERATION PETER PAN HYBRIDS

"Second generation Peter Pan hybrids. How many are there and how good are they?" An assignment at a Cymbidium Society (N.Z. Branch) judging seminar by Alf Day.

There is a count of 16  
registered second  
generation Peter Pan  
hybrids and 1  
unregistered, with more  
suspected around, but  
difficult to track down.  
Hybridisers were therefore  
already showing  
enthusiasm for future  
prospects of this breeding  
line.

The question raised is,  
has the first generation of

Peter Pan hybrids been  
sufficiently successful to  
indicate that the breeding  
line should be persevered  
with? The proliferation of  
interest worldwide from  
Peter Pan breeding and the  
high number of crosses  
made give a clear  
indication that results are  
very encouraging in  
colour, range, shape,  
growth habit, and early  
season flowering. Even  
more telling is the high

proportion of awards  
granted to registered Peter  
Pan hybrids. The answer  
found is that further  
generations of Peter Pan  
breeding are worthwhile  
proceeding with.

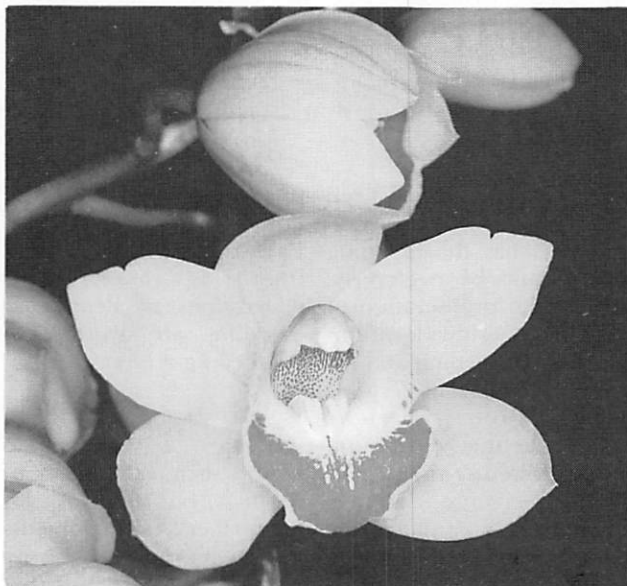
The second generation  
will have a hard act to  
follow, such is the record of  
the first, but the prospects  
if further improvements  
are achieved are truly  
exciting, and it seems that

all international orchid journals are running articles on the values of the Peter Pan breeding line. Listing out hybrids so far registered or known, together with hybridiser:-

All but two were hybridised in New Zealand and although none have yet been awarded, it is a little early to expect this for the immature plants, some of them are regularly

featuring in the orchid journals. New hybrids are being made and are becoming readily available to extend the season for flowering cymbidiums. In only two generations,

Alan Grapes (Coraki x Maureen Grapes) —	Norm Porter.
Australia Fair (Pink Peach x Peter Pilot) —	Geyserland.
Billet Doux (Last Chance x Summer Nights) —	Geyserland.
Dorothy Hazelwood (Dear Lisa x Pink Ice) —	Norm Porter.
Hec Hazelwood (Sue x Claudona) —	Norm Porter.
Jackpot (Sue x Ann Green) —	Norm Porter.
Jolly Sue (Sue x Jolity) —	Norm Porter.
Kiwi Magic (Sue x Coraki) —	Norm Porter (Geyserland).
Naked Eyes (Peter Pilot x Ruby Eyes) —	Geyserland.
Peachlet (Pink Peach x Ringlet) —	Geyserland.
Pink Sue (Sue x Pink Peach) —	Norm Porter.
Skidaddle (Sue x Winter Fair) —	Norm Porter.
Stan Porter (Rincon x Sue) —	Norm Porter.
Sue Guest (Pendragon x Sue) —	Guest Orchids.
Sunset Sue (Tom Thumb x Sue) —	Norm Porter.
Upper Crust (Last Chance x Rincon) —	Norm Porter.
Pink Peach x Dr. Baker —	Geyserland.



results of breeding from Peter Pan have already caught up with those from many other breeding lines. The prospects are that Peter Pan progeny will surpass them and bring a new standard into cymbidium hybrids, particularly in ease of flowering, floriferousness and compactness of plant.

*Cym. Kiwi Magic*  
*'Golden Babe' 4n*  
Grower: Norm Porter.

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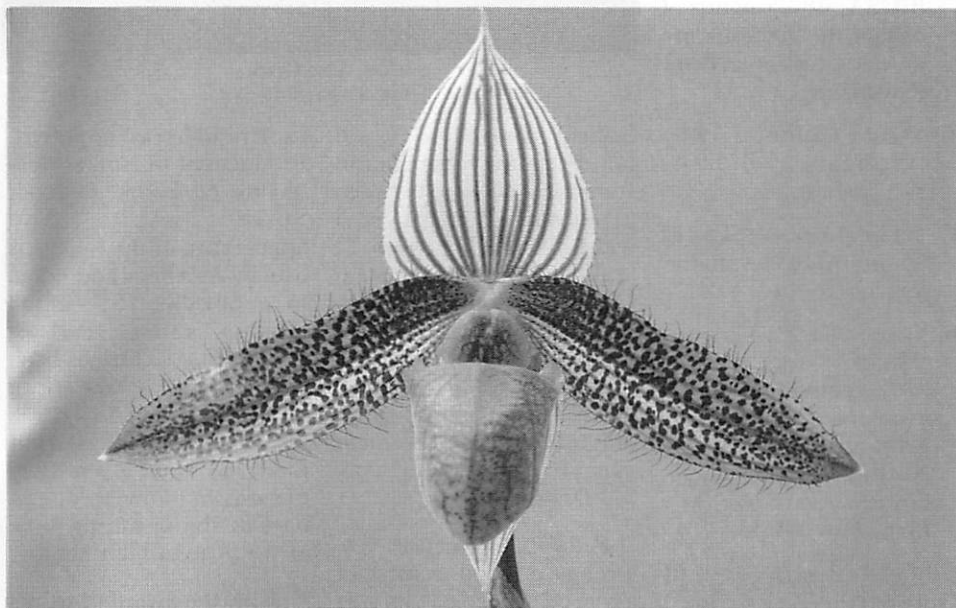


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*Paph. wardii* 'Tawa' HCC/OCNZ 1990  
Grower: D. & M. Patchett

## THE BEST FOUR PETER PAN 'GREENSLEEVES' HYBRIDS IN 1989

"Select four 1989 CSA awarded Peter Pan 'Greensleeves' 4n hybrids, and compare their dimensions. Select the best proportioned flower" An assignment at a judging seminar by Murray Anderson.

Actually from my research, only three were awarded in 1989 and one of these was an Award of Distinction. I have therefore gone back into 1988 to make up the group of four. The AD award is difficult to compare with the quality awards, but the AD awarded flowers have some superior features to it's parent, Peter Pan 'Greensleeves'

The four plants are:-

1. Runaway 'Pink Cloud' B/CSA, 78.25 points. I believe the highest score to date for any Peter Pan hybrid.
2. Wild Colonial Boy 'Wolfgang' B/CSA, 77.9 points.
3. Everglades 'Royal Salute' AD/CSA, therefore no points.
4. Maureen Grapes 'Meadowpark' B/CSA, 77.35 points. This was awarded in January 1988 and grown in the Northern Hemisphere, flowering very late for a Peter Pan hybrid.

The listings of dimensions are well recorded in the Orchid Advocate Cymbidium



*Cym. Alan Grapes*  
Grower: Norm Porter.

Society Awards so I will not repeat them here but in summary, all were between 6.5cm and 7.5cm in overall width. All had between 12 and 14 flowers on the stem which is an improvement over Peter Pan. When awarded Peter Pan 'Greensleeves' had only 8 flowers on a single stem, and this is an improvement over *ensifolium* with only 3-9 flowers.

Peter Pan 'Greensleeves' 4n has a good record of awards from first generation hybrids, and it is worthwhile considering

its strengths as a parent. Production of spikes and blooms on a spike is good. Spike habit and appearance of the foliage is usually excellent and equal to a possible 25% of all possible points. Perhaps the limiting factor has been in colour. Peter Pan 'Greensleeves' 4n is recessive for colour but there has been a tendency towards muddiness, due in part to the flowering time of the year in high light.

With the awarded plants under investigation we have a range of colours



*Cym. Sunbreeze 'Sunrac'*

with light pink, apricot/yellow, rose on cream with dark maroon lip for the AD, and lime green. Three of the hybrids were cut flowers so initial problems of keeping ability have apparently been overcome.

Everglades 'Royal Salute' had petal and sepal width of 1.9cm where back in 1982 we were awarding Peter Pan x Ora Lee (Valentines Love) with only 1.8cm dimensions. Both of these are superior to Peter Pan which only managed 1.3cm. Such is the progress of CSA awards and of course advances made by hybridisers.

My selection of the flower with the best proportions is Runaway 'Pink Cloud'. Here we have the smallest flower of the four in overall width, and yet with the widest petals. Moreover, probably for the first time, we have petals wider than the sepals, not seen in breeding from the Showgirls, Dr. Bakers, Mary Pinchess, Jack Hudlows, and Allison Shaws and in fact all of *pumilum* type breeding. With an overall width of 6.5cm we have one of the smallest flowers seen from first generation Peter Pan. Compare this with Valentines Love in 1982 with an overall width of 8.1cm and yet 'Pink

Cloud' has wider petals at 3.1cm.

Making another comparison with a standard cymbidium awarded in 1958 but still considered shapely, Jungfrau 'Dos Pueblos' had petals 3.4cm wide. Not too much more than 'Pink Cloud'.

Runaway 'Pink Cloud' is a big advance in its proportions and achieved in only one Peter Pan generation. Hybridisers are being spoiled with ease of success with this super-parent. With a Bronze award of 78.25 points the next generation should bring the Silver Medals, only 1.75 points away.

## A BREEDING PROGRAMME WITH PETER PAN FOR WHITES

“Devise a breeding programme involving Peter Pan ‘Greensleeves’ 4n to give you a white tetraploid in three generations with no less than 25% Peter Pan ‘Greensleeves’ 4n in the end result. Any other parent may be used in the programme.” An assignment for a judging seminar by Joe Vance.

After making some rather sweeping statements against the quality of whites bred from Peter Pan ‘Greensleeves’ at a seminar last year, Joe was ready made for a session on how he would approach the making of a good white. He had kept a lookout for white Peter Pan hybrids since to make sure he was not missing something special, and had found one that he was reasonably impressed with, Showgirl x Sue. This had quite presentable shape and colour but still fell short of true whiteness.

Research into parents used successfully in white breeding that had also been tried in Peter Pan hybrids showed up a long list.

More than 15 had been used including Alexanderi, Early Bird, Balkis, Stanley Fouraker, Sylvania, Etta Barlow, Showgirl, Orchid Snow, Pearl Easter, Dragon, Fred Stewart, Olymilum, Winter Fair, Trigo Royale and Bethlehem. Quite an impressive list and from which success would have been expected, but justice has not been done so far.

With no success in pure whites from these big names in white breeding, Joe believed the more surer way is to go further back, closer to the species to breed in good white genes from the start. Pristine whites may not come from second, third or even further generations of

Peter Pan with the present lines of breeding.

Joe’s way would be to cross Alexanderi ‘Album’ with Peter Pan ‘Greensleeves’ 4n and Snow Sprite ‘Jean’ with Peter Pan, and then crossing the progeny of these to produce a second generation hybrid which he would then cross with a modern well shaped clear white such as Vie Hermine ‘Grand Slam’, a flower he was much impressed with at Santa Barbara in 1989.

During discussion, Joe conceded that since Alexanderi ‘Album’ was a diploid, he would use Alexanderi ‘Westonbirt’, known to be a tetraploid.

## THE WORST PETER PAN HYBRID

“The worst first generation Peter Pan ‘Greensleeves’ 4n hybrid I have ever seen.” An assignment at a judging seminar by Alan Napper.

With great expectations I hybridised Hi-Rated ‘Moonstone’ with Peter Pan ‘Greensleeves’ 4n, for good form and colour.

Two pods were set, one much larger than the other,

and both had seed. All seed from both pods were sown but unfortunately, that from the larger became infected and was discarded.

Eight flasks were replanted from the mother flask of the smaller pod, and

seedlings grew vigorously both in and out of flask. Two years later I had sixty of the largest and fastest all growing well.

Spikes started to show and I could hardly wait to

see just how many would receive bronze, silver or even gold awards. The first spike opened and I could not believe how bad the flowers were. Colour was a dirty white, and petals and sepals were narrow. Petals poked forward with the column and sepals were twisted. A big disappointment, but the next one should be better.

It was not to be. None of the thirty flowered were as good as either parent with the exception of one characteristic. Flower spacing was predominantly good, some were a little over spaced. Not at all like Hi-Rated 'Moonstone' which is inclined to be bunched. Flowering time was spread from late May to September, colours

ranged through green, pink, yellow and dirty, dirty white, all pale and insipid, and form was hopeless. Remaining seedlings not yet flowered were discarded.

Looking back at the cross and tracing the ancestry of the parents, some explanation is available. Hi-Rated 'Moonstone' came from a hybrid cross of Swallow 'Lorraine' x Etta Barlow. 'Lorraine' was a pale green flower, not much to look at in fact quite insignificant. The other parent was an Etta Barlow not named, which had good form. 'Lorraine' appears to be the main weakness on this side of my hybrid.

The other side, Peter Pan 'Greensleeves' 4n is a

hybrid of *ensifolium* x Miretta. Like most of the seedlings that I flowered, *ensifolium* has petals that come forward to the column. The cross also exhibited many of the faults and weaknesses found in the great-great-grandparents, where you can find the species *insigne*, *lowianum*, and to a lesser extent, *parishii*. It is worth noting that none of the seedlings had a scent which could be expected when breeding with Peter Pan 'Greensleeves'.

With such a shocking result, I have since asked myself—what would the reverse cross be like, using Peter Pan as the pod parent? But then I am not that much of a gambler and in any case I have not the room to try it. ◀

## WHY DON'T MY CYMBIDIUMS FLOWER?

**T**HE QUESTION ONE HEARS so often from a 'novice orchid grower'.

Now that you have eliminated all your bugs pests and diseases and have an optimal environment including a HEALTHY ROOT SYSTEM on your mature plant, we must talk about feeding the plant to encourage flowers.

Alvin Bryant in the Australian Orchid Review, Autumn 1985 puts it this way.

"Over the years most of us will have seen a number of instances where a grower has made the resolve to 'feed' his orchids properly and substantial improve-

ments have resulted. Always however there has continued the search for the better fertiliser or the better compost and so on so we see the never ending cycle of change and enquiry.

If one wants top results in culture then it is classical

and simple. One should think of it as the 'magic water' formula to put the emphasis in the right place, for if you know what water does then you know the classical pathway to plant perfection.

The bulk plant food is carbohydrates (sugars) and

these are made from carbon dioxide and water, not fertilisers. The 'magic water' formula has two parts.

1. Maximising carbohydrate formation.
2. Maximum use of that carbohydrate.

For carbohydrate formation one needs SUNLIGHT, AIR, WATER. The sun is the energy source and it's actions on the chlorophyll in the leaf enables two chemical actions to take place.

1. The water taken up is broken into hydrogen and oxygen.
2. The carbon dioxide taken in is combined with this hydrogen to form carbohydrates, or sugars upon which its life depends.

Plants should have filtered sunlight on them for as long as possible during the day to optimise the energy for carbohydrate formation. The maximum leaf area should also be exposed, so care should be taken not to have pots too close together. Assuming air movement is adequate the carbon dioxide supply will be adequate. Fertilisers are needed in only minute quantities in RELATION to AIR and WATER.

Throughout this article, Mr Bryant shows how important water is but how it is of little help if sunlight

and carbon dioxide are not also present and goes on to explain that of course there will be no MAGIC unless the plant can USE these carbohydrates.

Both plants and animals have a respiration process in which the carbohydrates are broken down. For a plant however, the rate of respiration increases with the rise in temperature. A plant must produce enough carbohydrates or energy during the day to last it through the night. If temperatures are raised too much during the night, this reserve of sugars can become exhausted."

Cymbidium leaves cannot like those of other plants shut off evaporation of water when it is scarce and they cannot evaporate water into the air when the humidity is high. so, since the evaporation rate is controlled by humidity the pseudobulb is needed to store water in times of surplus and release it in times of drought.

When the supply of carbohydrates exceeds the demands, honey may be found exuding from the surface of the plant and at the proper time if there is plenty of sugars for the plant's life processes, the excess energy is used in producing flowers. Sometimes an orchid reacts to times of plenty by producing a great deal of vegetative growth instead of blooming.

Why don't my cymbidiums flower? There is not one quick answer to this question, or we would all be bored with our hobby but a pause in our busy days and a good look at how, when, where and why, our plants are doing what they are or what they are not doing. The best time to start preparing for next seasons flowers is straight after you have removed the current seasons blooms. For those plants that have not flowered, then August-September is the time to start looking at a growing programme.

With a good root system on your plant, good airy mix, sunny warm spot, shaded from the strong sun, and adequate drying out periods between waterings a high nitrogen fertiliser such as 'Lush' 'Zest', or the 'fast grow' bottle of the Brigitta or Micro-feed are but a few of the ready to use fertilisers. By Christmas though you must stop using this fertiliser and allow the plant to use up the surplus nitrogen so that the flower buds can be set. These form in the late spring early summer when food levels have been reduced and there is a 10-12 degree differential between day and night temperatures. From February until the flowers bloom you need a fertiliser that is lower in nitrogen and higher in calcium and potash, to help



the bulbs to mature and the spikes to develop strong long lasting flowers, eg Phostrogen or Flowering-mix of Microfeed Peters etc.

Flower spikes will appear in mid to late summer—now and can be distinguished from the vegetative growths by their more rounded appearance if you

are lucky and planning on lots of blooms for the 1990 show.

Reprinted from  
Manawatu Orchid Society  
Newsletter March 1990



*Cym. Cricket* CCC/OCNZ 1990  
Grower: C. & A. McLeod

# concerning cymbidiums

## 1.b. BORNEENSE

The species *Cym. borneense*, a highly unusual one, necessitated the establishment of this Section with the publication of Du Puy and Cribb's book.

### 1.b.1. *Cym. borneense*

J. J. Wood

First described in 1983, this species appears to be endemic to Northern Sarawak. It is a medium sized terrestrial, with pseudobulbs 80 x 15 mm. The 6 to 13 leaves are 400 to 800 mm long, somewhat coriaceous, arching. The scape is 160 to 180 mm long, somewhat erect, with 3 to 5 flowers. The flowers are relatively small, 40 mm across, coconut scented, the sepals and petals cream with a narrow white margin, strongly stained and blotched with maroon-purple, especially on the centre. The lip is white speckled with maroon, the mid lobe with some maroon blotches with a pale yellow patch at the base.

It is found in rainforest in deep shade, in humus rich soils over limestone or ultra-basic rocks, often near streams. It flowers in early to mid spring in Sabah, autumn in Sarawak. It occurs from

*Continuing this series by*  
**P. C. Tomlinson**

150 to 1300 metres above sea level.

### 1.c.

## HIMANTOPHYLLUM

This section, created in 1924, is related to the section *Cymbidium* and contains a single distinctive species.

### 1.c.1. *Cym. dayanum*

Reichb. f.

#### Synonyms

- Cym. leachianum*
- Cym. pulcherrimum*
- Cym. eburneum* var. *dayana*
- Cym. simonsianum*
- Cym. acutum*
- Cym. alborubens*
- Cym. simonsianum* f. *varnale*
- Cym. angustifolium*
- Cym. sutepense*
- Cym. poilanei*
- Cym. dayanum* var. *austro-japoniacum*
- Cym. eburneum* var. *austro-japonicum*

This is a beautiful species with elegant white and wine red flowers from a plant which has also graceful foliage.

John Day of Tottenham, London, was the first person to flower this species in Europe, in 1869, after importing it from Assam, India in 1865.

It is a medium sized epiphyte, although Valmayor states it is a terrestrial in the Philippines. It has small 40 x 25 mm pseudobulbs. The 5 to 8—400 to 950 mm long leaves are somewhat thickened and coriaceous, dark green with a mid-vein below. The scape is 180 to 300 mm long, somewhat erect to horizontal, bearing 5 to 15 flowers, sometimes up to 20. The flowers are 40 to 50 mm across, usually not scented. The petals and sepals are white or cream with a central maroon stripe which does not reach the apex, or occasionally suffused wine-red with a deeper central stripe. The lip is white, strongly marked with maroon, with an orange or yellow spot at the base.

This species is distributed from North India, China, Taiwan, Ryukyus, Japan, Philippines, Thailand, Cambodia, West Malaysia, Sumatra, and Sabah, growing 300 to 1800 metres above sea level. It prefers a light position in evergreen

forest, in hollows in trees and on fallen, rotting logs, often in damp and rotting wood. It flowers in late summer to late autumn, and sporadically throughout the year in tropical latitudes. Out of season flowering is not uncommon under civilisation.

Mark, Ho Fu-Shun and Fowle, in *Cymbidiums of Taiwan*, describe *Cym. alborubens* as a separate species. They state that it is a close relative to *Cym. dayanum*. It is the only species in Taiwan, which is principally an epiphyte, although is occasionally found on steep cliffside sedge covered slopes. It is a large orchid, found in the mountainous regions from 500 to 2000 metres altitude, mostly in semi shaded zones, or on rocks in full sun. It is autumn flowering, producing 10 to 15 bright red coloured flowers on a pendulous scape, which are 'very graceful'. Under cultivation, hot house conditions are appropriate, under semi shade, and it is said to require good drainage.

## 1.d. AUSTROCYMBIDIUM

This section was established by the great botanist Schlechter in 1924, then including the Australian species. In 1984 the range of the section was extended to include two

Malaysian species, plus the recently described *Cym. elongatum*, from Borneo. Basic flower colour is yellow to greenish. The species of this section can be divided into two groups on the basis of their vegetative habit — *Cym. canaliculatum*, *hartinahianum*, *chloranthum* and *madidum* have large ovoid pseudobulbs flattened on the sides which are produced annually while *Cym. suave* and *elongatum* lack pseudobulbs and have instead a slender stem which grows indeterminately, giving the species almost a monopodial habit.

### 1.d.1. *Cym. canaliculatum*

R. Br.

#### Synonyms

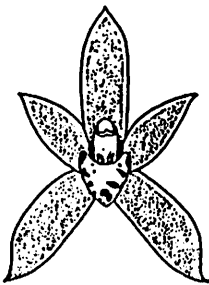
- Cym. hillii*
- Cym. sparkesii*
- Cym. canaliculatum* var. *sparkesii*
- Cym. canaliculatum* var. *canaliculatum* f. *aureolum*
- Cym. canaliculatum* var. *marginatum*
- Cym. canaliculatum* var. *marginatum* f. *fuscum*
- Cym. canaliculatum* var. *marginatum* f. *purpurescens*
- Cym. canaliculatum* var. *barrettii*

First described in 1810 by Robert Brown this medium sized epiphyte has large pseudobulbs, up to 120 x 35 mm. It is known to form large clumps. 3 to 4 leaves are produced from each pseudobulb, 150 to 460 mm long, coriaceous

and stiff. The scape is 250 to 550 mm long, somewhat erect to horizontal, arching, often producing more than one per pseudobulb, each producing 20 to 60 closely spaced flowers. The flowers are 18 to 40 mm across, very variable in colour, not scented. The sepals and petals are greenish or brown to almost black on the outside, dull to golden-yellow or green within, usually spotted and blotched or uniformly coloured with red-brown to deep magenta, usually with a narrow greenish margin, or occasionally uniformly deep reddish-black. The lip is white or cream sometimes tinged with green or pink, lightly spotted red or purple. The considerable variation in flower colour has caused some authors to separate the more distinctive extremes into separate varieties or species. This aspect is fully discussed by Du Puy and Cribb.

It is an Australian native, found from northern Western Australia to Cape York in Queensland, and south to central New South Wales. It is found from sea level to 1000 metres altitude. It grows as an epiphyte on Eucalyptus and Melaleuca trees, in rotting wood in hollow trees or in hollows formed by fallen branches, often in very dry areas, usually in partial shade. It flowers in early spring to

summer. It is considered to have a considerable ability to withstand drought conditions, this characteristic partly due to its thick leathery leaves which show resistance to desiccation, and the shape of those leaves, which are erect, hooded at the apex, and strongly V-shaped in cross section. This shape channels any available water to the base of the plant. The plant has an ability to respire at night when the loss of water is minimised, compared to when this occurs during the hot dry daytime hours. The rotting wood in which this species often grows naturally assists in providing moisture, facilitated by the extensive root system which is characteristically developed — individual root systems up to 12 metres in length can be formed. It prefers some shade, but usually occurs in open woodland and will withstand exposure to strong direct sunlight. When conditions are dry, it can tolerate summer temperatures in excess of



*Cym. canaliculatum* flower

35° C, and freezing winter nights.

Dockrill notes that when space in the hollow in the tree will permit, the species can grow into a huge specimen weighing "many hundreds of pounds". He confirms this is a very widespread species native of inland Australia, but encountered almost anywhere except the moistest coastal and highland areas.

### 1.d.11 *Cym. hartinahianum* Comber and Nasution

This species is related to *Cym. chloranthum*. It was first described in 1977, and was thought to have a very restricted distribution, being collected several times from a single locality in northern Sumatra. Its natural habitat is broken forest and rough damp grassland, growing as a terrestrial in damp conditions amongst small ferns and mosses in good light. The poor soil ensures little competition from other plants exists.

It is a medium sized plant with conspicuous pseudobulbs up to 70 x 35 mm. 7 to 10 leaves are produced, 130 to 300 mm long, somewhat coriaceous, V-shaped in cross section. The scape is 500 to 800 mm long, erect, bearing 14 to 21 flowers. The flowers are about 35 mm in diameter, not scented, the petals and

sepals olive-green to purple-brown, with some brownish staining towards the base. The lip is white, the side lobes barred with red, the mid lobe sparsely blotched with red.

It is native of Sumatra, growing from 1700 to 2700 metres altitude. It is late winter to summer flowering. ◀

## BINDERS STILL AVAILABLE

The Canterbury Orchid Society still have a small number of binders available at the old price of \$9.50 each. (Suitable for holding 6 copies of *Orchids in New Zealand* magazine).

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*Den. Hewitt Star 'Astra' HCC/NZOS 1990*  
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Back Cover: *Medicalcar decoratum*  
A general view of the plant, showing the flowers,  
each of which is only some 5mm across.

## TAURANGA BIRTHDAY

Tauranga Orchid Society celebrated its 10th Birthday in April 1991. A large number of those present at the Annual Meeting were foundation members and still active in

the society. Guests were Syd and Joy Wray from Whangarei.

There was a time of reminiscing by some of the Past Presidents. Unfortunately Ron Maunder, the inaugural president, was unwell and

unable to attend. Ron had been followed by Les Cannon, Beryl Burgess (now Mrs Taris), Pat Nichol and Mary Parkinson. Pat Nichol was elected president at the Annual Meeting that night. Beryl Taris cut the cake.



Left to Right: Les Cannon, Mary Parkinson, Beryl Taris (nee Burgess) and Pat Nichol.  
Photo taken by Beryl Goodger.

### SUMMER ORCHID DISPLAY PUKEKURA PARK, NEW PLYMOUTH 11 and 12 January 1992

Taranaki Orchid Society again extend an invitation to you to join in this unique event and see orchid seldom otherwise seen on display, notably DISA. Share in a fun weekend, come prepared for the monster boot sale of orchids & sundries.

#### BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

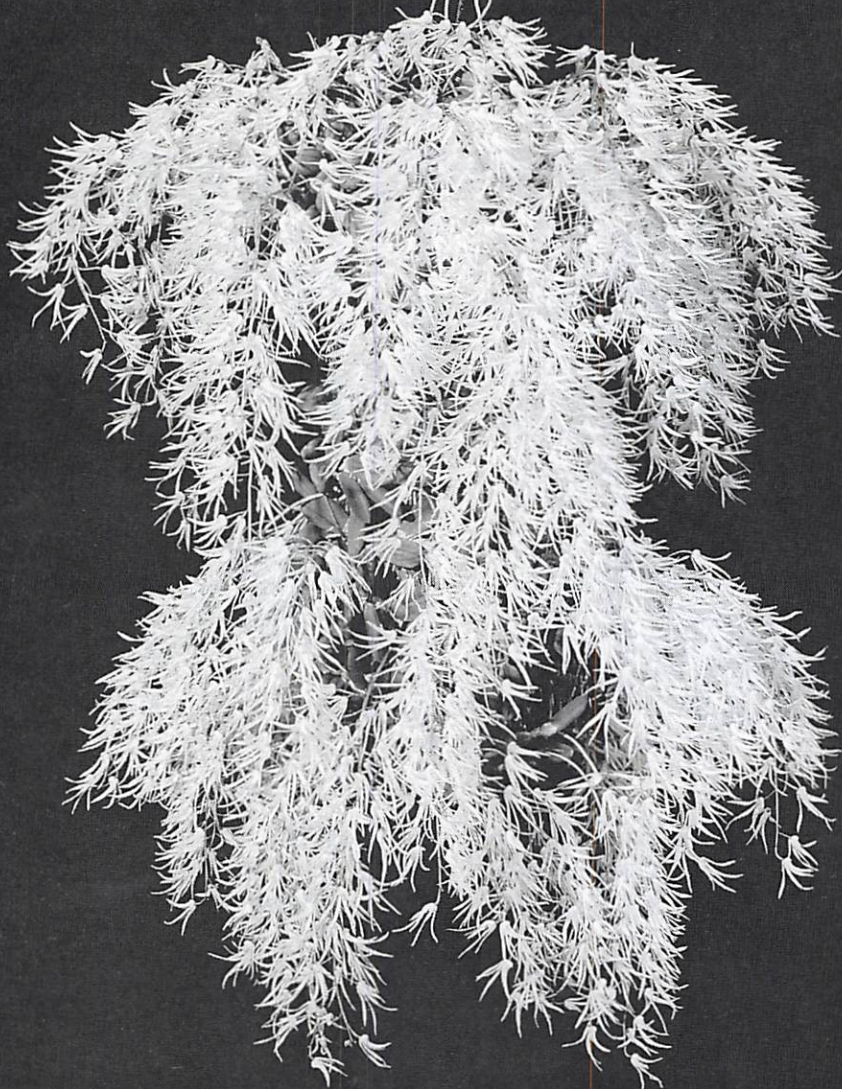
Because of increasing numbers, prior notice of attendance at the Saturday Night Dinner is essential. Outside Caterers involved, so late bookings unacceptable.

*Further details available from your local Society Secretary but please book early.*

**TARANAKI ORCHID SOCIETY INC., P.O. BOX 635, NEW PLYMOUTH**

In Association with N.P.D.C. 'SUMMER SCENE' Programme.

*Flower of the Year*  
1990



*Den. linguiforme* 'Buffy'

Awarded CCC on 4.11.90 — 85.2 points.

Grown by Mrs J. Parker, Devonport, Auckland. 94 spikes with approx. 2350 flowers each white with a pale yellow lip. Size of flowers 16mm across visible limits of flower. A beautifully grown plant covering both sides of a 300 x 100 mm tree fern slab. All flowers open and looking very fresh.



## CONZED AWARDS FOR 1990

- |            |   |                   |
|------------|---|-------------------|
| 90/001 HCC | <i>Paph.</i> Sibyl 'Rosanna Mary'   | Mr D. Burgess     |
| 90/002 HCC | <i>Phal.</i> Nancy Gordon 'Joy'   | Mr O. Van Beek    |
| 90/003 AM  | <i>Masd.</i> <i>uniflora</i> 'Hot Pink'   | C. & R. Coles     |
| 90/004 HCC | <i>V.</i> Rothschildiana  | Mr L. Goodwin     |
| 90/005 HCC | <i>Paph. parishii</i> 'Swan Lake'   | Mr P. Walls       |
| 90/006 CCC | <i>Paph. parishii</i> 'Swan Lake'   | Mr P. Walls       |
| 90/007 HCC | <i>Phal. luedemanniana</i> v <i>hieroglyphica</i> 'Kaytee'                              | C. & P. Webster   |
| 90/008 CCC | <i>Phal. luedemanniana</i> v <i>hieroglyphica</i> 'Kaytee'                              | C. & P. Webster   |
| 90/009 CCC | <i>Slc.</i> Tangerine Jewel 'Marilyn'   | N. Cave           |
| 90/010 AM  | <i>Masd.</i> Rubicon 'L. & R.'  | L. & R. Orchids   |
| 90/011 HCC | <i>L. purpurata</i> 'Katie'   | Omata Gardens     |
| 90/012 HCC | <i>Milt.</i> Unregistered Grex 'Marise Clare'<br>{Andy Easton x <i>Mem.</i> Ida Seigel} | G. Parkinson      |
| 90/013 HCC | <i>Den.</i> Unregistered Grex 'Doreen'<br>{Hickam Deb x Lady Charm}                     | Mr J. Climo       |
| 90/014 HCC | <i>Paph.</i> Makuli 'Goblin's Cocktail'   | Mr R. Williams    |
| 90/015 AM  | <i>Sl.</i> Pole Star 'Spotlight'  | Mr J. James       |
| 90/016 AM  | <i>Soph. coccinea</i> 'Prima'   | Mr J. James       |
| 90/017 AM  | <i>Paph. wolteranum</i> 'Treasure' syn. <i>appletonianum</i>                            | J. & S. Wray      |
| 90/018 AD  | <i>L.</i> September Song 'Purple Jewel'   | W. A. L. Kilgour  |
| 90/019 HCC | <i>Masd.</i> Angel Glow 'Tuakau Sunrise'  | L. & R. Orchids   |
| 90/020 CCC | <i>Masd.</i> Stella 'Merina' see z90/01   | L. & R. Orchids   |
| 90/021 CCC | <i>Lyc.</i> Koolena 'White Swan'  | Mrs I. Burge      |
| 90/022 HCC | <i>Z.</i> Seagulls Landing 'You Little Beauty'  | Mr R. Tucker      |
| 90/023 HCC | <i>C. maxima</i> 'Hobbs Bay'  | Mrs D. J. Burrell |
| 90/024 HCC | <i>Odcdm.</i> Tiger Mac 'Mona'  | Mr A. Day         |
| 90/025 HCC | <i>Den.</i> <i>miyakei</i> 'Eden'   | Mr D. Campbell    |
| 90/026 HCC | <i>Cym.</i> Claude Pepper 'Raroa'   | Mr F. Brljevič    |
| 90/027 HCC | <i>Sc.</i> Beaufort 'Elmwood'   | T. & P. Signal    |
| 90/028 CCC | <i>Den.</i> <i>linguiforme</i> 'Buffy'  | Mrs J. Parker     |
| 90/029 HCC | <i>C. schillerana</i> 'Nicola'  | D. & C. Bonham    |
| 90/030 HCC | <i>Masd.</i> Angel Glow 'Tuakau Sunset' see z90/02                                      | L. & R. Orchids   |
| 90/031 HCC | <i>Paph.</i> Nisqually 'Seamew'   | Mr H. C. Wortman  |
| 90/032 HCC | <i>Paph.</i> Supersuk 'Tawa'  | D. & M. Patchett  |
| 90/033 HCC | <i>Lyc.</i> Shoalhaven 'Teresa'   | Mr H. C. Wortman  |
| 90/034 CCC | <i>Cym.</i> King Arthur 'Round Table'   | W. & P. Stephens  |
| 90/035 CCC | <i>Cym.</i> Cricket   | C. & A. McLeod    |
| 90/036 HCC | <i>Paph. wardii</i> 'Tawa'  | D. & M. Patchett  |
| 90/037 HCC | <i>Masd.</i> Unregistered Grex 'Amelia'<br>{ <i>veitchiana</i> x <i>wurdackii</i> }     | Mr M. Dougherty   |
| 90/038 AM  | <i>Onc.</i> Makeup 'Golden Halo'  | Mrs N. Chisnall   |
| 90/039 AD  | <i>Paph. argus</i> 'Vinni Magic'  | Mr J. R. Blackman |
| 90/040 HCC | <i>Wils.</i> Solana Prince 'Sunny Downs'  | Longview Orchids  |
| 90/041 HCC | <i>Paph. callosum</i> 'Samurai'   | Mr R. Williams    |
| 90/042 HCC | <i>Paph. urbanianum</i> 'Gypsy'   | Mr R. Williams    |

90/043 HCC	<i>Masd.</i> Unregistered Grex 'Lisa Jill' {Angel Frost x <i>welischii</i> }	Mr C. Coles
90/044 AD	<i>Masd.</i> Unregistered Grex 'Tracy Ann' { <i>coccinea alba</i> x <i>chaparensis</i> }	Mr C. Coles
90/045 HCC	<i>Rhv.</i> Unregistered Grex 'Michael' { <i>Rhv.</i> Blue Angel x <i>V. cristata</i> }	E. Reardon
90/046 HCC	<i>Phrag. caudatum</i> 'Waikawa'	A. King
90/047 HCC	<i>Wils.</i> Kendrick Williams 'Featherhill'	Mrs E. J. Ansley

NUMBER OF AWARDS FOR THE YEAR:

FCC — 0    AM — 6    HCC — 30    CCC — 8    AD — 3    NAR — 0  
TOTAL NUMBER = 47    ◀

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## NZOS AWARDS FOR 1990

z90/01 AM	<i>Masd.</i> Stella 'Merina' }see 90/020	L. & R. Orchids
z90/01 CC	<i>Masd.</i> Stella 'Merina' }	L. & R. Orchids
z90/02 HCC	<i>Masd.</i> Angel Glow 'Tuakau Sunset' See 90/030	L. & R. Orchids
z90/03 HCC	<i>Sarco.</i> Melba 'Bridal Veil'	R. & N. Armstrong
z90/04 AM	<i>Onc.</i> Christmas Star 'Rachel'	D. & N. Bonham
z90/05 HCC	<i>Mill.</i> Unregistered Grex 'Marise Clare' (Andy Easton x Ida Seigel)	Gwenda Parkinson
z90/06 HCC	<i>Odcdm.</i> Unregistered Grex 'Redvale' { <i>Odcdm.</i> ( <i>Odm. bictoniense</i> x <i>Odcdm.</i> Dena Reinikka) x <i>Onc. marshmallianum</i> }	Ross Tucker
z90/07 AD	<i>Z.</i> John Banks 'Redvale'	Ross Tucker
z90/08 HCC	<i>Zcx.</i> Elfin Jade 'Bayswater'	Ross Tucker
z90/09 HCC	<i>Z.</i> B. G. White 'Bayswater'	Ross Tucker
z90/10 AD	<i>Z.</i> John Banks 'It'll Do'	Ross Tucker
z90/11 HCC	<i>Den.</i> Hewitt Star 'Astra'	R. & N. Armstrong
z90/12 HCC	<i>Soph. coccinea</i> 'Supah'	Nola Chisnall
z90/12 AD	<i>Soph. coccinea</i> 'Supah'	Nola Chisnall
z90/13 AM	<i>Cym.</i> Unregistered Grex 'Raroa' { <i>Ygraine</i> x <i>Pendragon</i> }	Frank Brljevich
z90/14 HCC	<i>Odrta.</i> Mandarine 'Little Gem'	Jean Allen
z90/15 AD	<i>Wils.</i> Unregistered Grex. 'Lilliana' Label uncertain. { <i>Onc. tigrinum</i> v <i>unguiculatum</i> x <i>Oda. Lautrix</i> }	Doug & Mary Day
z90/16 AM	<i>Sarco.</i> Melba 'Snowflake'	R. & N. Armstrong
z90/17 CC	<i>Masd. datura</i> 'Jeanette'	Jean Allen

**NOTE:**

Plant size measurements are available from the local CONZED judging groups. Details of NZOS awards from that society or Dennis Bonham, CONZED chairman on awards.    ◀

# NZOS WINTER SHOW July 1991

## TROPHIES

Gand Champion Orchid of the Show. The 'Lion' Trophy:-

*Paph.* JoAnne's Wine — B. Fraser

Grand Champion Paphiopedilum. The Society's Cup:-

*Paph.* JoAnne's Wine — B. Fraser

Reserve Champion Paphiopedilum:-

*Paph. micranthum* — B. Fraser

Grand Champion Miniature or Intermediate Cymbidium. The Corban Trophy:-

*Cym.* Melane 'Nicol Jane' — Margaret LeSueur

Founders Paphiopedilum Trophy:-

*Paph.* Great Pacific x Via Recompensa #2 — B. Fraser

Ena & Des Langdale Trophy:-

*Cym.* Tongariro 'South Pacific' — Marilyn & Bryan Johnson

Corban Cup. Best Miniature Cymbidium:-

*Cym.* Dr. Baker 'Hyacinth' — K. & K. Hamilton

James Trophy. Best Cattleya Alliance:-

*Slc.* Shona 'Red Queen' — I. D. James

Clark Cup. Best Intermediate Cymbidium:-

*Cym.* Melane 'Nicol Jane' — Margaret LeSueur

Agnew Trophy. Best Novice Miniature or Intermediate Cymbidium:-

*Cym.* Lady Bug 'Drumm' — S. Boath

Carpenter Winter Trophy. Best Pleurothallid Alliance:-

*Masd.* Copper Angel — Montessa Orchids

Del Chandler Trophy. Most Outstanding Oncidiinae Alliance:-

*Wils.* Zoe Stephenson — F. L. Brljevič

Joan Parker Winter Trophy. Best Miniature Species excluding Cymbidium:-

*Oerstedella centradenia* — Val Bayliss

Carolyn Scholes Trophy. Best Phalaenopsis:-

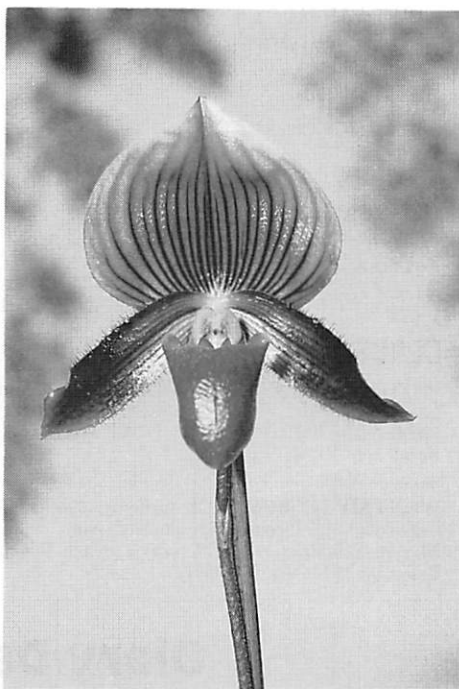
*Phal.* (Opaline 'Chris' x Crystal Chanda Lear) — Dell Gee

Jean Allen Trophy. Most Outstanding Novice Standard Cymbidium:-

*Cym.* (Lunagrad 'Elanora' 4N x Sleeping Dream 'Castle') — Brian Brown

Armstrong Trophy. Best First Flowering Cymbidium Seedling:-

*Cym.* (Fancy Free 'Geyserland' x Babylon 'Castle') — Sunrae Orchids



*Paph. Joanne's Wine '4 Star' HCC/NZOS*  
 Grower: Papa Aroha Orchids. Photo: V. Bayliss.

Shirley Sidnam Trophy. Best Inter-generic Orchid:-  
*Wils.* Zoe Stephenson — F. L. Brljevič

Powell Cup. Best Specimen Paphiopedilum:-  
*Paph. hainanensis* — B. Fraser

Boyce Cup. One Flowering Paphiopedilum, showing best culture.  
*Paph.* (Hellas 'Rex' x Rancho 'Winter Halo') — G. Pickering

Mountford Cup. Three Cattleyas, different colours:-  
*Pot.* (Tiger Tears x *Dialaelia* Snowflake)  
*(Lc.* Orange Cascade x *Slc.* Rajah's Ruby)  
*(Blc.* Meditation x *Blc.* Princess Bells) — F. & B. Johnson

Reg Butler Trophy. Paphiopedilum, judged on quality, culture and appeal, novice class:-  
*Paph. insignis* — Murray Gyde

Large Display:-

- FIRST : South Pacific Orchids
- SECOND : Coopers Orchids
- THIRD : South Auckland Orchid Society

Table Top Display:-

- FIRST : M. Hart & J. McCole
- SECOND : R. Armstrong & A. Duthie

Points Prize — Open:-

Sunrae Orchids

Points Prize — Novice:-

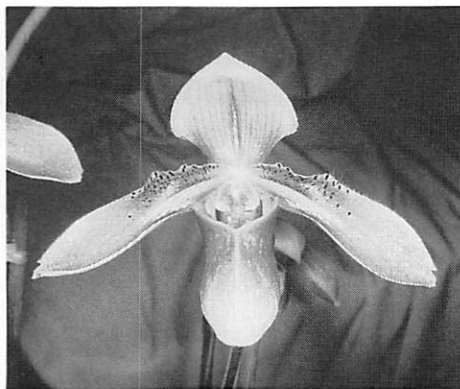
A. Lee

Effie Potter Trophy for Floral Art:-

Iris Scandrett

Wight Trophy, most points in Open Floral Art:-

Iris Scandrett



*Paph. hainanensis*

Grower/Photo: V. Bayliss.

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## Diary Dates 1991

### October

Friday 4th, Saturday 5th

SOCIETY: **Bay of Islands Orchid Soc**

VENUE: Union Church Hall

ADDRESS: Kerikeri

Friday 4th, Saturday 5th, Sunday 6th

SOCIETY: **Waikato Orchid Society**

VENUE: Hamilton Gardens Complex

Friday 4th, Saturday 5th

SOCIETY: **Wairoa Orchid Society**

Saturday 5th, Sunday 6th

SOCIETY: **Wanganui Orchid Society**

VENUE: Wanganui Boys College Hall

ADDRESS: Ingestre Street, Wanganui

Friday 11th, Saturday 12th, Sunday 13th

SOCIETY: **Dannevirke Orchid Society**

VENUE: Manchester Unity Hall

ADDRESS: Dannevirke

Friday 11th, Saturday 12th, Sunday 13th

SOCIETY: **Nelson Orchid Society**

VENUE: Stoke Memorial Hall

ADDRESS: Stoke

CONTACT: P.O. Box 2006, Stoke, Nelson

Saturday 12th, Sunday 13th

SOCIETY: **Levin & District Orchid Soc**

VENUE: Horowhenua College Hall

Saturday 12th, Sunday 13th

SOCIETY: **Rotorua Orchid Society**

VENUE: Malfroy Primary School Hall

ADDRESS: Rotorua

Labour Weekend—Saturday 26th 11am-5pm

Sunday 27th 10am-4.30pm

SOCIETY: **Wairarapa Orchid Circle**

VENUE: McGregor Hall, Masterton

ADDRESS: Cnr Dixon & Workop Roads

Masterton, (Opp. Woolworths)

## MORE ON FLASKING

So now that you have the flasking recipe you want to know how to sow your seeds. O.K. then, this is the bathroom method.

For green pod process you will need:-

Scalpel or razor blade  
about 500 mls of 10% Janola and water  
small mister  
forceps or tweezers  
2 Chux cloths  
2 or 3 flasks of prepared media for each pod  
bunsen burner or alcohol lamp  
surgical mask & shower cap to cover your hair  
stool to sit on

First I wipe down walls and around work area. I then put a sheet of formica across the hand basin to make a working area and spread one Chux cloth over it. Using about 150 mls of the 10% Janola water in the mister I spray the work area until the cloth is quite wet and also wet the 2nd cloth which I use for wiping the flasks. The green pod must be sterilized by soaking in the 10% Janola water for 10 minutes.

Close windows and doors and turn the shower on hot and run until the

room is thoroughly steamed up. Turn off the shower and sit down and wait until you can see to work, only a few minutes; a bit longer if you wear glasses. Sterilize tweezers and scalpel over bunsen burner every time you use them. Loosen the lids of flasks.

Roll up your sleeves, remove watch, spray both hands and part of arms with mister, also around the lids of flasks. Take pod from 10% Janola water with tweezers and cut a window in it with scalpel (don't forget to flame scalpel) to expose seed. Remove lid of first flask and place it inside down on wet Chux cloth. If seed is flowing tap a little into flask, or you may have to scrape a little with scalpel (don't forget to flame scalpel) replace lid firmly then go on to next flask.

For mature split pods in addition to the above you will need a test tube, or I find the plastic container that films come in OK, and a large eye dropper or pipette, and a small amount of sterilized water. Seed from split pods is presumed to be contaminated and must be sterilized. Place seed in test tubes add 2 or 3 mls of 10% Janola water put in stopper and shake. Leave for 10 minutes then carefully remove as much 10% Janola water as

possible with pipette or eye dropper and replace with sterilized water, shake and replace sterilized water twice more. Then using eye dropper put 2 drops of sterilized water containing seed in each flask. Don't be tempted to put more, 2 drops will give you plenty of seed. Good luck ◀

Malcolm Campbell

## BUSH SNAILS AND GARLIC SNAILS

1. Dissolve 1 tablespoon metaldehyde powder and 1 tablespoon washing soda in 1 pint of boiling water. Add to 4 gallons of cold water, then completely immerse each pot in the solution until the compost is saturated. It is probably sufficient to spray the potting mix in each pot until it runs out the bottom. Care should be taken with methaldehyde as it is rather poisonous.

2. Chopped up Watkins Slug Tape around pots can be successful. This can be obtained from garden centres in 40 metre rolls (approx \$3.10). Withstands heavy rain, still active after 4 weeks.

Reprinted from the  
Bay of Islands Orchid Society  
Newsletter June 1991.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

I also received the April and August editions of **Orchids in New Zealand**. I feel I must reply to John McDonald in the August edition.

Let me first of all comment on the two mistakes pointed out by John McDonald. I also spend a lot of time going through the hybrid lists but in my case not to pick on other writers of articles sent in to **Orchids of New Zealand**, but to correctly record on my entries at shows.

I am indeed fortunate to have a friend in Mr Alf Day who has probably got one of the best libraries on orchids, privately owned, in New Zealand, and is generous in his help in researching on Epidendrums.

I will point out the proceedings taken to enter an exhibit in the W.O.C. in case John McDonald does not know. We entered the 'Class No' the 'Location' 'Genus Abbreviation' 'Plant Name' and 'Exhibitors Name'. These cards were then taken to and scrutineered by Professor Dennis Bonham who consulted the 'Sanders List' before entering them into the computer. Any

proof of correct entry will still be on the disc.

I can assure John McDonald that my entries were 100% correct. I have the second place card for *Epi. Boundii* and the first place card, and Bronze medal card for *Epc. Nebo*, in front of me at this moment.

These cards are a printout from the computer.

Perry Reichardt

Sir,

Thanks to Aline Bovaird and to John McDonald for their letters in August 1991 issue which should help our campaign for more accurate labelling of orchid plants.

John will be interested to know that both Perry Reichardt's plants referred to were correctly entered in the 13 W.O.C. as:-

*Epi. Boundii* location 101 plant #1161

*Epc. Nebo* location 101 plant #1582

They were checked through as such and entered on the results sheets as well as the entry, class prize and Award cards as such. Any errors arose outside the W.O.C.

system. Perry Reichardt has always been one of our most reliable label writers!

Incidentally in my Sander's List *O'Brienium* is spelt *Obrienianum* as in *O'Brien* spelt *Obrien* in the cross made by Veitch in 1899 of *C. bowringiana* x *Epi. Obrienianum* making *Epc. Mrs James Obrien*.

In the letter by John, *radicans* has been once misspelled *radicas* and *ibaguense* as *ibaquense*. This g/q confusion also happens with the well-known *Leo Holguin* which often gets mis-labelled *Holquin*.

Dennis G. Bonham

*I guess you must fire the Editor. Production of the magazine is a late night part-time occupation, and at times compromises are necessary. There is often a choice of extra proof reading or on getting the magazine out on time. In view of the demands some readers make for on time publication, some accuracy must be sacrificed. If you want a 'perfect' publication the alternative is in getting the magazine completed professionally — and pay double the price for it. Its your choice.*

Editor

Sir,

I noticed an article about Pleiones in the Book Review of the February edition of *Orchids in New Zealand*. I am most interested in growing Pleiones and have a small collection, from material supplied by Dr Warberd of Leeds. Could you possibly let me have the address of Ivan D. Rankin from Ashburton, and of Norman Heywood of Orchid Sundries Ltd.

In the same issue there was a query from John Lloyd about the difficulty of flowering the var. *album* of *Dendrobium kingianum*. I grow several forms of *D. kingianum*, including var. *Ellen* and var. *album* and find them relatively easy to flower, and, in fact, have the var. *album* form in spike at the moment.

It might be of interest to know that they grow outside all the year round, with the exception of winter, when I bring them under the shelter of the eaves of the house, on the sun deck. This faces west and gets only the afternoon and evening sun; during the rest of the year they are in as much sun as we get. Also during the winter, and especially in frosty weather, I keep them very dry. This winter, as you may know, we have had two exceptionally low temperatures, one of  $-11^{\circ}\text{C}$  and one of  $-9^{\circ}\text{C}$  plus a week of  $-6^{\circ}$  to  $-8^{\circ}$ . It has been a most testing time, but so

far, all my orchids seem to have survived, but I'll keep a close watch on them in the next 6-8 weeks.

Harry F. Siggers  
Nelson

1. No address for Ivan D. Rankin from Ashburton was published.

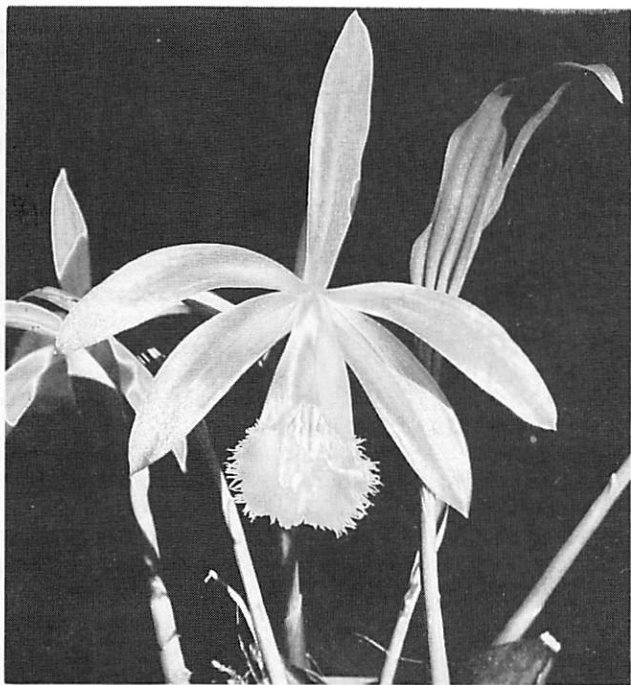
2. Norman Heywood,  
Orchid Sundries,  
New Gate Farm,  
Scotchey Lane, Stour  
Provost, Nr Gillingham,  
Dorset. SP8 5LT,  
ENGLAND.

### **DENDROBIUMS:**

Your editor is undertaking a study of the Genus *Dendrobium*.

I have been trying to obtain a copy of Gunner Seidenfaden's *Orchid Genera of Thailand — Flickingeria and Epigeneium*.

This appears to now be out of print. If any reader has a copy they would be able to sell or lend to me, I would appreciate them contacting me.



*Pleione formosana*

Sir,

## WHO? — Me?

Not many of us get switched on by the thought of attending an AGM of any society but if you are really keen to see CONZED continue, I suggest that at the next opportunity, you make sure you are there, if not as a Delegate then as an Observer. The meeting recently held at New Plymouth was my first as a Delegate.

During the discussion time following Remits and Recommendations various

people presented information and facts which spelt out loud and clear the sort of effort that has been made over the years all for the cause. Understandably the 13th W.O.C. demanded even more from the few, but again there was no short-fall.

So I learnt a great deal about the background history of CONZED and its members, both past and present, and their enthusiastic dedication. With the query "where to from here" covered in **Orchids in New Zealand**

recently, I can only hope that the answer will be 'ONWARDS'; for surely we cannot waste all the previous time and effort so generously given. Don't leave it all to the same people — get involved.

Lyn Sherlock

## DONATIONS TO COLOUR FUND

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Mr Wei-Min Lin	Taiwan
J.C. & S.J. Dewar	Lower Hutt
Mrs D. L. Reid	Tauranga
Mr J. Rowe	Camarillo, USA

Thank you for your contributions.

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***Cattleya skinneri*  
var. *oculata alba***

I bought this orchid in flower from the Waikato stand October 6th, 1989. I saw it had eight growths showing a mass of 110 flowers in total. This had to be special for my collection. I was very lucky to be on the spot when it arrived for sale, otherwise somebody else would have owned it. It was good value at \$45.00; a bargain. I thought! I do love my white cattleyas!

Two years ago I took it to the November orchid monthly meeting where there were lots of comments, "If you ever

decide to cut it in half I wouldn't mind the first choice," was said many times that night. I intend to leave it as a big specimen plant. Haven't they seen cattleyas grow like this before? This is a regular bloomer, it's season is October/November.

If you have a white *C. skinneri* with a bit of colour in the lip it should be referred to as 'var. *oculata alba*'. If it is fully white it is one of the rare true alba's, a collectors item. The other colour form of *C. skinneri* is pink, which is used in many crosses today.

My *Cattleya skinneri* var. *oculata alba* did not increase the flower count of the previous year this last season and I think the

reason was the growths were right to the edge of the pot. I have potted this wonderful plant on this year, and talk about roots. Now it's got plenty of space to grow for another two seasons in a big basket, thanks to Mr Brownridge's basket making. I don't know what else it could have gone into. It is a month since I have potted this big specimen plant, I find that the roots are just going everywhere and some are climbing on the basket itself. By hanging it up to the light I noticed that the growths are going towards the light. I have also noticed that it is doing

---

*Tarris McDonald from Southland with one of his favourite Cattleyas, featured in this article.*



better hanging in a basket than it was sitting on the bench.

When we had glasshouse visits, some were surprised to see how big a specimen can get. Next season I think I should back cut some of the growths and that will start off new leads from them. Hopefully the results will show me many more flowers.

Every orchid grower should try to have a specimen orchid plant. I have six specimen plants in my own collection and *Cattleya skinneri* is one of the biggest. This plant has agreed to stay in my collection for ever. ◀

**Tarris McDonald**

*The correct spelling is oculata, not oculate. Incidentally, oculata means 'eyed' with reference to the spot of purple located at the base of the lip.*

*Editor*

---

## MINI CATTLEYA'S

The term mini-catt., includes several related genera which will interbreed, the commonest being *Cattleya*, *Laelia*, *Brassovola*, *Sophronitis*, *Encyclia* and *Broughtonia*.

As yet there is no accepted 'rule' which determines the size of a mini-catt., and Jim cited

the article by Frank Fordyce which suggested that under 25 cm should be called mini. Jim feels that this is a bit tall and would prefer to use 15 cm as the mini size.

He feels that a mini-catt., should flower in a 2 inch pot. Plant size is the important factor, small flowers on a big plant does not constitute a mini-catt.

Early breeders thought big was beautiful and most breeding early on aimed at increasing flower size. Over the past 50 years a few breeders tried breeding some small catts., but they were not very popular.

During the past 5 years mini's have become very fashionable and more plants can be held in an area formerly containing only a few large plants.

Good clones should have large flowers on small plants. Sometimes flower shape has been sacrificed in the mini's but colour often outweighs this.

*Sophronitis* has had a great effect on the breeding of mini-catts., but in recent years the discovery of dwarf *Laelias* in mountain regions of South America has given breeders many new avenues to follow.

Cultivation is the same as for big Catts., but one must remember that mini-plants could easily be overpotted. To prevent this occurring, Jim pots several

plants per small pot and they seem to do much better.

It is possible to have 4 or 5 flowering size plants in a 4 inch pot.

A series of colour slides was shown depicting some of the small species used for breeding over the years and showing the resulting hybrids.

Jim showed slides of the parents he has used for breeding and the results achieved in recent years.

Many of his creations are very desirable mini-catts., and often flower twice per year.

An interesting comparison was made between the first and second flowering of one plant. The first flowering was very nice but the point Jim was trying to make, was just how much better it could be on a stronger plant.

The second flowering produced a bloom so superior to the first that Jim had trouble convincing people that its from the same plant.

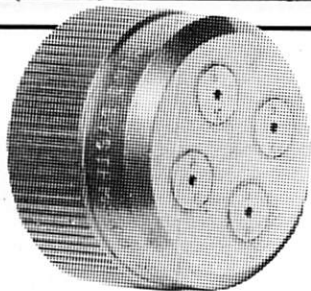
**I. D. James**  
Reprinted from  
Canterbury Orchid Society  
Newsletter May 1986

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*The Little Ones*  
*Small but Fascinating*



There are many small flowered orchids. Many have drab and insignificant flowers, but some, such as this New Guinea species *Mediocallcar decoratum*, make up for their small size by their bright orange and yellow balloon shaped, almost unorchid like flowers.

Native of the high mountains of New Guinea, some members are quite common in the high elevation cloud forests, and the genus is also found in some of the surrounding islands.

The genus contains up to 20 species, the succulent plants rambling and branching, forming attractive mats of tiny fleshy stems and leaves.