

Orchids
in New Zealand

Volume 18 No. 6

December 1992

Australian

Orchid

Review

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

Six issues per year featuring
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Subscription rates

Surface One Year \$NZ41 or \$A34
Two Years \$NZ75 or \$A64
Air Mail One year \$NZ49 or \$A41
Two Years \$NZ94 or \$A79
Single Copy Air Mail \$NZ9.50

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Slide/Video Programme Librarian:

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ORCHID COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND (CONZED INC.)
P.O. BOX 489, WHANGAREI

NOTE: the new name of Orchid Council of New Zealand
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THE ORCHID ADVOCATE

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All photography by Editor
unless noted otherwise.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Vol. 19, 1993 (6 issues)
(including postage and
GST); \$28.00

to be sent to:

Distribution Secretary:

MISS B. FEATHERSTON
P.O.Box 983
Whangarei

Back Issues Secretary:

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Printed by W.J. Deed Printing Ltd
16 Bowen Street, Waiuku.
Phone: 0-9-235 7133

Orchids

IN NEW ZEALAND

incorporating 'The New Zealand Orchid Review'

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

ORCHID COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND

NEW ZEALAND ORCHID SOCIETY

VOL. 18 No. 6

DECEMBER 1992

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HERE AND THERE

THE last two issues have been produced under pressure, because of my recent overseas travels. I must thank our President for his assistance during this period as Acting Editor, and also Bill Deed and his staff for the extra work they put in to the production of the last issues. If I keep it up I may make myself redundant!

A trip overseas always adds to one's perspective of life, places and people. There is no doubt that there are a lot of problems in this country, but it quickly becomes very apparent that most of the countries visited also have their fair share of problems — and even in some cases make this country appear like paradise.

We are used to wide open spaces and few people. The congestion of people in places like Hong Kong and London is one picture that remains in one's memory. The competition for places of work and play and living make one realise what benefits we have from such an upopulated country. The density of road traffic is also an experience — imagine over two hours each way to and from work, and that is for the

editorial



lucky ones in Los Angeles. I am told the average speed on the Los Angeles freeway is currently 30 mph, and in 5 years is forecast to be 5 mph! That surely makes even the Auckland motorway during the rush hour a quiet Sunday drive.

The retailers in this country are experiencing difficulties, but imagine 187 shops in one shopping centre all having a sale — for months. Just imagine the competition from virtually every shop in Oxford Street having a sale — some shops were even discounting their already heavily reduced sale prices. Great for the shopper, but not so good for the owners of those concerns.

We may not like the economic or political situation in this country, but still it's a great place to live. ◀

Christmas Greetings to all our readers

It is with deep regret that we mourn the passing of Bert Topp.

On retirement in 1978 Bert started growing orchids as a hobby and his interest soon grew and in a short time he built two 16 x 10 glasshouses. He then set up a small orchid business known as "Red Oak Orchids". He joined the Wellington Orchid Society in 1978. In 1980 he was chairman of the show committee for the 1st N.Z. International Orchid Show. He was responsible for transporting two displays to Auckland. He later joined the Hutt Valley Orchid Circle where he played an active roll in Society activities. He was president of the Hutt Valley Orchid Circle from 1985 until his shift to Gisborne in 1988. He was also the vice president of the Hutt Valley Horticulture Society. In 1985 he was on the management committee for the 2nd N.Z. International Show/Conference held in Wellington. Bert was responsible for hospitality, tours and accommodation.

He had been a member of the Poverty Bay East Coast Orchid Society for many years prior to his shift to Gisborne. Bert joined in most of the activities of the Society and was always on hand to put up displays at shows. In

In Memory of
Bert Topp 15.4.22 — 13.6.92

1985 his *Dendrobium thrysiflorum* (illustrated below) received a CCC/OCNZ award. At the 1990 13th World Orchid Conference held in Auckland the 'Topp Display' received a 1st placing.

His great love was for *Cymbidiums* and Australian Native *Dendrobiums*. His collection still comprises some magnificent specimens of *Cymbidium*

species and primary hybrids.

Bert's next great love was meeting people and talking endlessly about orchids and enjoyed attending orchid shows. In 1988 he was made a life member of the Hutt Valley Orchid Society.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Helen and her family. Bert's memory will live on in *Slc.* Bert Topp (*C. Chocolate Drop* x *Slc. Hamana Best*).



Dendrobium thrysiflorum
Grower: E. B. and H. C. Topp

Orchids — what they are and how to use them

by Alex D. Hawkes

The word "orchid" always evokes, in the mind's eye of the average person, visions of strange and wonderful flowers, hanging in lush festoons from mouldering trees in dank and dark tropical jungles. Flowers for which one must pay some fabulous price, and which were snatched from their tropical home by some intrepid explorer at the risk of life and limb. In actuality, these statements are only partially true. Orchids, of which there are an estimated 20,000 different species—making them the largest family of flowering plants—though indeed strange and wonderful flowers, do not grow exclusively in the tropical regions of the world, nor particularly in hot dark jungles. In a book one of our authorities on the subject, Dr Donovan S. Correll, has listed 170 different species and varieties of orchids from continental North America, *New Zealand has some 100 different species*. Editor. North of Mexico; here in California some 23 kinds grow wild, and in Florida 87 are known to occur, many of them of striking beauty and exotic formation. Alaska has its quota of orchidaceous plants, as do virtually all the other countries of the world, even the scorched deserts of Africa and Australia, and the frigid meadows of Patagonia.

New Zealand has some 100 different species.

Editor

The vast majority of these intriguing plants grow in the warmer regions of the globe, with tremendous numbers inhabiting such countries as New Guinea (where there are more different types than anywhere else), Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Java, Borneo, and the Himalayas of India. there they are predominantly air-plants, or epiphytes, growing perched on trees and shrubs, particularly at the higher elevations. Though often erroneously called parasites, these highly specialised plants are never parasitic in their mode of growth, since they derive none of their nourishment



Dend. biggibum var. *compactum*
Photo: F. Zimbuhl

from the tree on which they live. They are merely a strange sort of "guest", obtaining only their place of support from the host branch or trunk; their life-sustenance comes from the minerals and moisture furnished by the rain and nightly dews, and from any tiny bits or detritus, such as falling leaves or dislodged bark which happens to fall around their thick-absorbent roots. Many orchids grow as well on bare rocks or cliffs, to which they cling with an amazing tenacity; this is certainly proof that they could not possibly be parasites, for these inhospitable homes offer them very little in the way of food materials.

Some orchids, including almost all those native to this country, grow in the ground, exactly in the manner of ordinary plants, deriving their nourishment from the minerals and water found in the soil. A third category, the saprophytes, live a peculiar sort of existence on dead and decaying animal or vegetable matter; these are few in number and reach their greatest development in the tropics.

Orchids, in addition to being the most numerous, in number of kinds, of all flowering plant groups, are also generally conceded to be the most highly evolved and most complex, structurally speaking. The

vegetative parts — the roots, stems, and leaves — are not only exceedingly complicated organs, but are specially adapted to withstand extremes of drought and heat. Many of the species, in their native haunts, grow fully exposed to torrential rains and the full strength of a blazing tropical sun; during the dry season they may receive little or no rain of any sort, and are constantly baked by the even more desiccating sun. Many of them, when accidentally

dislodged from their aerial perch on a tree, upon falling to the ground adapt themselves to a true terrestrial mode of growth; as such times, even the basic external structure of the roots may change radically, to facilitate the plant's adaptation to existence in its new environment. Orchid roots are characteristically very fleshy white structures, the internal water-and food-conducting vessels being surrounded by a spongy tissue which greatly aids in



Bulbophyllum rothschildianum
Photo: David Menzies

absorption. The stems of many orchids are variously swollen or enlarged to form bulb-like organs called pseudobulbs, which are filled with a porous, water-storing flesh. The foliage is typically rather fleshy and not particularly abundant, and also aids in the storage of moisture.

It is in the flowers, however, that the orchids exhibit their greatest degree of development and specialisation. Each flower typically consists of three sepals, three petals, and the customary stamens, pistil, and carpels. The sepals and petals form the showy part of the blossom situated around the sexual parts; one of the petals is generally greatly enlarged and of a different colour or combination of colours than the other floral-parts. This is termed the *lip* or *labellum* of the flower, and is typically its most showy portion. The stamens and pistil are not separate, as they are in a flower like a lily or a poppy, but rather are fused into a complex fleshy finger-like structure, termed the *column* or *gynostemium*. It is this column by which orchids are easily distinguished from all other plants (a somewhat similar organ occurs in the Milkweed family, but it is not of the extremely complicated form encountered in the orchids).



Ascoglossum calopterygum
Photo: David Menzies

Orchid flowers are produced in all the colours of the rainbow. Green and brown are perhaps the most frequent, as regards largest number of kinds, though white, yellow, blue, lilac and every possible combination of every other hue is known. Black orchids are rare, and are generally tiny blossoms of a most un-orchid shape from the tropics. True pink is perhaps the rarest colour in the orchid family, occurring only in a few handsome plants from Central Africa and the Himalayas. These flowers vary in size from

infinitesimally small (less than a millimetre across) to almost a foot in diameter. They may be produced singly, or in quantities of up to several hundred per spike. The plants occur in all possible sizes, from less than a quarter-inch (8 mm) high to immense clumps with pseudobulbs to almost thirty feet (10 metres) long.

Commercially orchids are of importance, principally for their highly valued flowers. Four genera and their immediate allies are responsible for the vast majority of all commercial

orchids, though there are somewhat more than 630 genera known to science! A great many of these groups are rare or seldom seen in cultivation, and are often of interest only to a connoisseur or a botanist. Most commercial orchids these days are raised from seed, a slow and rather tedious process which takes from three to twelve years for the first production of flowers. Orchid seeds are extremely small, resembling a fine powdery tan or brown dust, and are produced by the millions in each fat seed-capsule. They must be sown under relatively sterile conditions, on a solution of agar jelly, in which various minerals and organic foods have been dissolved. New processes and techniques are constantly being developed in this field, so that now many people in this country and abroad spend most of their time exclusively on the sowing and early cultivation of seed and seedlings. (*Written before mericlone's became generally available. Editor.*)

Orchid flower and plant production is a several million dollar business annually. The major establishments devoted to cut flowers are located near the large population centres. Almost all orchids in this country, (USA), due to our relatively inhospitable climate, must be grown under glass; this, and its attendant expenses,



Myrmecophila tibicinis
Photo: David Menzies

coupled with the basic high price of the plants when grown from seed, is the principal reason for the high values attached to orchid flowers in the trade today.

Besides their extensive use as cut flowers for corsage work, and their increasing popularity in flower arrangements and as incidental ornaments in the home, orchids are of considerable value to man from an economic viewpoint. Probably the most important of all orchids in this respect is the genus *Vanilla*, a sizeable

group of tropical vines of the orchid family, the seed-capsules of which, called "beans", furnish us with vanilla extract. Many other 'types of orchids in the tropics are used as food, in the manufacture of baskets, hats, belts, etc., as religious fetishes, and medicinally.

The collection of orchids from their native haunts is not as much practiced nowadays as before, due to the greatly augmented interest in artificially produced hybrids, which now number between 19,000 and 20,000 (*now*

over 100,000, Editor). In former times, however, the gathering of orchids from the wild was an important pursuit, professional collectors being sent out by the large European and American concerns to all parts of the world, in search of new and rare types. Their experiences contain a wealth of strange and often terrifying tales — encounters with cannibals, shipwrecks, volcanic eruptions, tropical storms, and the not inconsiderable difficulties of actually finding and gathering the plants. The slow means of transport available in those days often wreaked havoc with the plants, and frequently entire shipments arrived in England or France with not a single specimen left alive.

Hundreds of books have been written on the orchid family and its vagaries and intricacies, and today many periodicals are being published throughout the world in half a dozen languages, designed to keep the thousands of enthusiasts up to date on the latest happenings in the orchid world. Immense international orchid shows are given annually, both here and abroad, drawing thousands of visitors, and containing exhibitions of plants from all parts of the globe.

Orchids are indeed *Big Business* in our time, and we believe that, despite

wars, A-bombs, H-bombs, civil strife, and their allied mischiefs, people will always continue to grow them, much as they have for hundreds of years.

How to use your Orchids

Orchid flowers, when used as a corsage, should always be worn with the showy lip pointing *downward*. Many an expert on the subject has turned bilious green with horror upon encountering a fair

frilled *Cattleya* adorning his lady-friend, who has intentionally or inadvertently placed the labellum pointing up! When purchased at your florist's, they are generally already arranged with ribbons, etc., but you can fix your own corsage with little time and even less expense, and more to your individual satisfaction. The colour of the ribbon to be used (if any is wished — many people now wear their orchids without any ribbon at all, believing that this detracts from their



Galeandra batemanii
Photo: David Menzies

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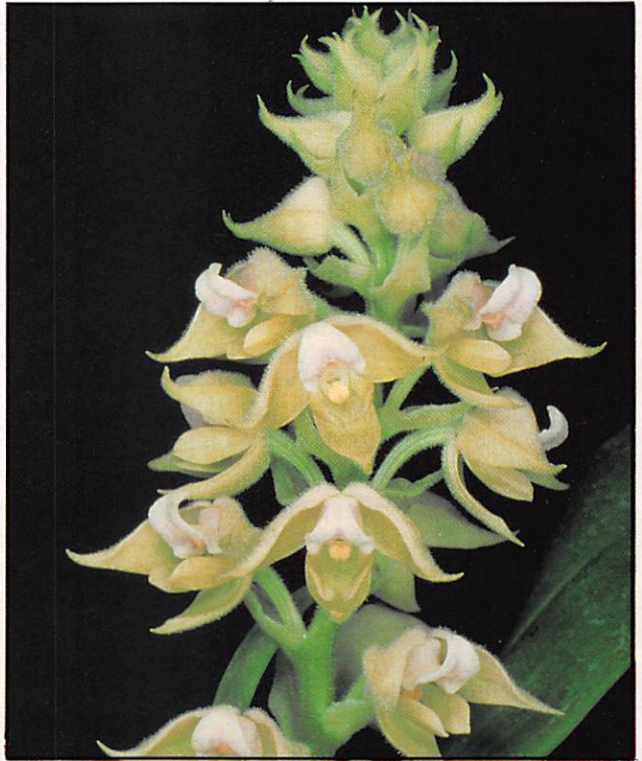
innate beauty) varies, of course, with the colour of the flower, but in general it should be a similar or subtly contrasting shade. Care should be taken, when tying the ribbons at the base of the flower, not to tie the knot too tightly, for the stalks of orchids are often annoyingly brittle. For a longer life, the stalks should be wrapped with commercial florist's tape. The flower will last longer if a tiny section is cut off the end of the stalk every day with a sharp knife, and if the flower is kept in water when not being worn. Orchids which come from the florist should be kept in the refrigerator when not in use, since they were refrigerated while in his hands, but those which have been cut freshly from friends' plants, etc., may be set about the room, in a vase or ornamental container.

Many of the spray type of orchids are admirably suited for use in flower arrangements in the home, when combined with fern or other foliage. The water should be changed daily if possible, for longer life. Such groups as *Cymbidium*, *Dendrobium*, *Oncidium*, *Odontoglossum*, and *Vanda* are especially adapted to this sort of thing. Faded blossoms should always be picked off the stalks, for one wilted bloom can spoil the effect of an entire bouquet. These spray

orchids are also perfect for use as hair-pieces, necklaces, bracelets, and the like. The individual blossoms are wired, with floral wire, onto slim ribbons or taped wire of somewhat larger size. When not being worn, such pieces should be stored on beds of damp (not wet) excelsior or torn paper strips, in a cool place. Care should always be taken to avoid getting water on the flowers, since many of them spot easily, thus marring their original clear beauty.

The average cut *Cattleya* flower, when purchased at a florist's shop, may last as long as three weeks if adequate care is taken of it. Certain of the hardier types, such as *Cymbidium*, *Papahiopedilum*, *Dendrobium*, etc., will last up to a month or more, and a few extraordinary kinds will retain their freshness for as long as four months when cut from the plant!

Orchids are really easy to grow — why not try some yourself, and see? ◀



Polystachya villosa
Photo: David Menzies

JOHN EASTON AWARD 1992

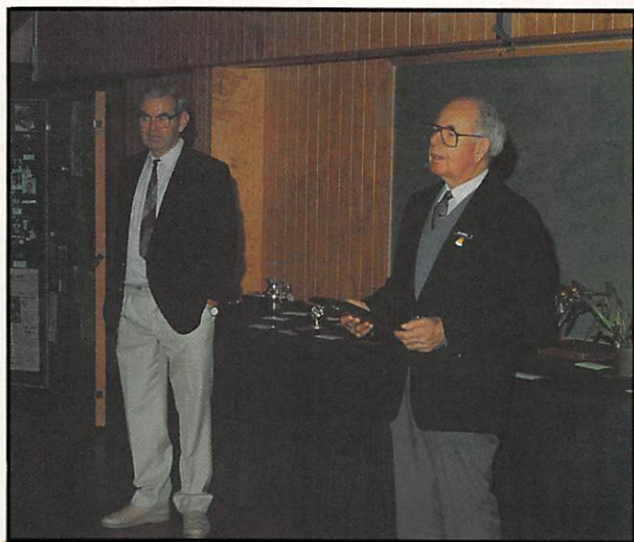
KEN CHRISTIE

THIS prestigious Award administered by the Hawkes Bay Orchid Society is the only one of its kind in New Zealand. 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 NZ".

The committee this year under the Chairmanship of Mr W. Ross-Taylor were pleased to announce that **Mr Ken Christie** of Wellington would be the recipient.

Ken resides in Wellington and has served on the committee of Capital City Orchid Society since its foundation, stepping down last year. He was Finance Officer of the Organising Committee of the 2nd NZ International Orchid Conference in 1985 which was an outstanding success making a profit after repaying all the society loans plus interest. He was renowned for very careful forward planning and keeping a very tight reign on the conference budget, hence its great success.

Ken's contribution to orchids and orchid growers has been enormous to say the least, most especially in his efforts towards raising funds through the Hillary Commission, (now QEII Arts Council) for various activities such as judging, colour award photos produced in the magazine, setting up the video hire programmes etc. These



Ken Christie receives the prestigious John Easton Award 1992

applications are very complex and have to be presented accurately covering all details of what is being applied for and how it will be used, also including a five year plan for the Orchid Council. Many long hours have been spent on this by Ken with incredible results over the last two years, successfully gaining grants totalling \$10,100.00. This money had to be spent before 30th June each year and it will benefit all orchid growers who belong to

societies, those who subscribe to the magazine, and orchid judges.

The magazine **Orchids in New Zealand** brings in another aspect of Ken's work for orchid growers. He has just stepped down after serving two years as Chairman of the Magazine Committee. He has been a member of the Orchid Council Executive Committee since 1987 and has worked tirelessly on behalf of all orchid growers in New Zealand. On his

retirement at the AGM this year in Auckland, Ken was presented with a Distinguished Service Certificate having served five years on the Executive Committee with distinction.

Ken trained as a professional engineer and has a long career spanning both engineering and business management. His outside interests apart from orchids include service to the Scout Association, Consumer Council, NZ Amateur Arts Assembly, and the engineering profession, and has travelled to many parts of the world with his work.

It was said that Ken is a man of few words but when he does speak everyone listens.

Mrs Christine Irwin
Secretary
John Easton Award Committee

The Value of a Member

*Ten little members
standing in a line,
One disliked the President
and then there were nine.*

*Nine ambitious members
offered to work late,
One forget the promise,
and then there were eight.*

*Eight creative members
had ideas as good as heaven,
One lost enthusiasm,
and then there were seven.*

*Seven loyal members
got into a fix,
They quarrelled over programmes,
then there were six.*

*Six members remained
with spirit and drive,
One moved away
and then there were five.*

*Five steadfast members
wished there were more,
One became indifferent,
and then there were four.*

*Four cheerful members
who never disagreed,
'Till one complained,
and then there were three.*

*Three eager members!
What did they do?
One got discouraged
and then there were two.*

*Two earnest members,
each enrolled one more,
Doubling their number,
and then there were four.*

*Four determined members
just could not wait,
'Till each won another,
and then there were eight.*

*Eight excited members
signed up sixteen more,
In another six verses,
there'll be a thousand and twenty four!*

Author Unknown

THE FUTURE OF DEVONIANUM HYBRIDS AND THEIR DEVELOPMENT

by Ross Tucker

In exploring development of future *devonianum* hybrids it is necessary to consider as well the past and present development. Acknowledgement must first of all be made to the pre-eminent role that Keith Andrew has had in the use of *devonianum* over many years. In an article in the Orchid Advocate back in 1953 Keith Andrew stated that his early interest in *devonianum* hybrids was to produce a blue *cymbidium*. No one believed that it would be achieved in one step but the early crosses could be stepping stones. In the intervening years the spectacular results achieved with pendulous miniature *cymbidiums* created the *devonianum* legend and the new type of *cymbidium* that was produced. In answer to the question of why he had not developed the line beyond first and second generation to any degree Keith Andrew has stated that he was only interested in the positive aspects in *devonianum*, being miniature, charm, high colour, brilliant lips, and overall attractiveness of the *devonianum* hybrid.

Today *devonianum* hybrids have gone beyond first and second generation but unfortunately some less constructive parents than the originals have been used. We now have large numbers of plants that are much of the same colour, brown, green, greys and generally less attractive than miniatures. Although there are some attractive plants available there has been a general trend toward mediocrity.

Breeding with *devonianum* is a blending process using influence of various traits from both parents, including ploidy. It is impossible to anticipate generalities of the resulting progeny, but what of the future? We do not want more of the same but what differences can we produce? Some of the differences that should be possible are:

1. A greater variety of colour. Maybe it is still a pathway to a blue *cymbidium*. Blue tinges in some of the *devonianum* hybrids are apparent. If sufficient imagination is used in selection of parents success may be achieved.
2. Miniaturisation. Making the present *devonianum* hybrids smaller using parents such as *Cym. suave* and Peter Pan hybrids. It is important to include the foliage in considering the miniaturisation process.
3. Increasing the flower production. We can already get one or two spikes per bulb, maybe it is possible to get three, four or five using highly floriferous parents.
4. Clarity of colour. Actually getting clean bright colours with dark *devonianum* lips. There are a few around today but not enough. Ice greens, yellows, pure whites and even black velvety reds should be possible.
5. Extreme opposites. Huge standards with *devonianum* lips. Monster plants with black lips.

It is perhaps not what we expect but the unexpected differences that *devonianum* will produce in hybrids of the future. ◀

October 1991

JUDGING DEVONIANUM HYBRIDS

by John Brljevic

Most *devonianum* hybrids cannot be judged as miniature *Cymbidiums* because of broad leaves. To qualify as a miniature, the plant as well as the flower must be dwarf or have miniature characteristics. Hybrids from *devonianum* therefore usually are judged as novelty *Cymbidiums*. The **Cymbidium Society of America Manual of Award Judging** states that a novelty *Cymbidium* "need not be miniature in growth characteristics in order to be acceptable so long as it has a known dwarf flowered species in its background."

When judging *devonianum* hybrids as novelty *Cymbidiums* the floriferousness of spike and plant, and flower arrangement and spike habit is worth 15 points each. Nearly as much as form and colour which have 20 points each. So numbers of flowers and their arrangement are most important in getting an award.

To maintain charm and distinction, especially as miniature *Cymbidiums*, plants are best grown in pot no larger than six inches (150mm).

Crosses between tetraploid standard *Cymbidiums* and *devonianum* sometimes produces flowers on upright or arching spikes. One of the most popular of such crosses, Bulbarrow (Western Rose x *devonianum*) made by Keith Andrew in 1976, has received 16 quality awards. Another similar cross is Jack Hudlow (High Sierra x *devonianum*) made by Geyserland Orchids. This cross has received 5 quality

awards. A disadvantage with crosses using a tetraploid parent is that foliage sometimes becomes coarser and flowers less numerous.

In contrast to this a number of clones of Dame Catherine (Landleynense x Mary Pinchess) made by Geyserland Orchids, have

been seen in New Zealand recently. Mary Pinchess has brought size of the foliage well down to miniature status. Crosses having a *pumilum* content not only have a tendency to reduce foliage size but also bring upright or arching spikes.

October 1991



Cym. devonianum

Cym. (Stanley Fournaker x Vogelsang) 'Clare' HCC/NZOS
Grower: Tony Ballard — NZOS Spring Show 1992



Pests and Diseases

Caterpillars are also a problem. They get inside new growths and destroy them from the inside. If you are quick enough you can squash them before too much damage is done; just keep an eye out for new growths which look distorted.

Ants are becoming more obvious now we have global warming. There is a "jam" available in Auckland, which will wipe out the nest.

NON-TOXIC SPRAYS

A list of "relatively" non-toxic recipes to get rid of most pests follows, taken from various society newsletters over the last year or so. It seems that everyone is shying away from using lethal and expensive sprays, and we thank those people who contributed.

SAPSUCKERS: Mix equal parts of water and meths in a spray bottle, spray affected areas.

CHEWING INSECTS: Blend one full bulb of garlic in a blender, add two table-spoons of kerosene, and let stand for two or three days. Dissolve two cups of Lux flakes in one

litre of water, and stir into the kero/garlic mix. Let stand two days. Strain through a stocking and store in an air-tight container. To use, dilute 125 mls (half a cup) in 4 litres of water, and apply twice, ten days apart.

ANTS: One tablespoon each of borax and icing sugar sprinkled near the nest will kill the whole colony.

COCKROACHES: A 50-50 mix of borax and brown sugar sprinkled wherever they are seen.

STERILISE POTS: Hot water, washing up liquid, and a dash of Jeyes Fluid as a steriliser.

BUSH AND GARLIC

SNAILS: Dissolve one tablespoon of metaldehyde powder and one tablespoon of washing sode in one pint of boiling water. Add to four 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 until it runs out the bottom. Care should be taken with methaldehyde as it is rather poisonous. Chopped up Watkins Slug Tape around pots can be successful. It

withstands heavy rain and is still active after four weeks.

GARLIC GARDEN

SPRAY: Chop a three ounce garlic bulb, add two teaspoons of paraffin, and leave for two days. Add one pint of water and a quarter of an ounce of good oil soap. Store in a plastic or glass container, not a metal one. To use, add one part to ninety nine parts water to cover one hundred square yards. Will destroy aphids, white butterfly, grubs, wireworms, snails, codlin moth.

SPRAY FOR APHIDS, GREEN FLY &

CARROT FLY: Three pounds of rhubarb leaves chopped up and boiled in three quarts of water for half an hour. Dissolve one ounce of soap flakes in one quart (four cups) of boiling water. Mix the two liquids together and strain.

RESUSCITATING

PLANTS: Two table-spoons of sugar and one teaspoon of a balanced liquid fertiliser in two litres of water. Immerse the plants for at least one hour, but not more than three hours. Repot in a well drained potting medium and keep in a warm humid area. ◀

ORCHID JUDGING

A GUIDE FOR THE ORDINARY GROWER

by Dennis G. Bonham

Why do we judge?

Is it solely for the sake of improving the ego of both judges and exhibitors or are there more fundamental reasons? Obviously many growers do exhibit with a competitive spirit and their efforts require ranking. Although in past years several societies have been against competitive shows, there is now increasing enthusiasm for comparative judging if only to promote better culture.

While judging aims to seek theoretical perfection, there is an important relationship to commercial developments. Judging should take note of commercial trends and help such trends to develop with hybrids of maximum quality. With the trend towards smaller plants, and the massive Japanese and European move to pot plant styles our judging should encourage the development of appropriate hybrids.

Many people are put off judging by the apparent difficulty, the long training and the mystique engendered by those who have successfully negotiated the necessary hurdles in the way of becoming an accredited judge. One hopes that this simple account will help to remove the mystique, and perhaps encourage more successful growers to at least try their hand for a season.

The types of judging

Orchid Judging is essentially of two types — Ribbon or Class Judging, and Award Judging.

Ribbon or Class Judging determines the first, second, and third in each of a number of classes selected by the Show Marshall. The Show Schedule is made up to allocate classes for the plants likely to be at their

peak at the time and to provide an opportunity for both more and less experienced growers. At some shows the plants are benched in class groups and at other shows some or all of the plants will be incorporated in displays. After the class judging there is usually a second round to select Trophy winners eg The Grand Champion, or the Best Miniature Cymbidium exhibited by a novice judged on quality.

In Class judging the judges choose the orchids by quality of the flowers but sometimes a feature such as colour may be designated in the Show Schedule to be of major importance. Obviously in Show Judging it is important for exhibitors to read and understand the Schedule to ensure that the plant is entered in the most appropriate class. Equally important is that Show Schedules should be prepared with the help of

judges so that everything works smoothly without the need to change classes at the last minute. A hybrid orchid will be disqualified from a species class and vice versa. Sometimes at the last minute the judges may out of kindness for a new exhibitor ask the Show Marshall to move a plant to the proper class but this cannot be done in big shows.

Award Judging, while this is often also done at shows because this is where superior plants are usually to be seen, it may be done at any time where a quorum of judges are able to meet and consider a plant. The plant being considered is judged against perceived perfection for that particular species or hybrid. To make matters more difficult theoretical perfection is always thought of in the future so that it can never quite be reached. What may have been regarded as 85% of perfection in 1978 may be well below consideration ten years later.

The **Quality Awards** recognised internationally are:-

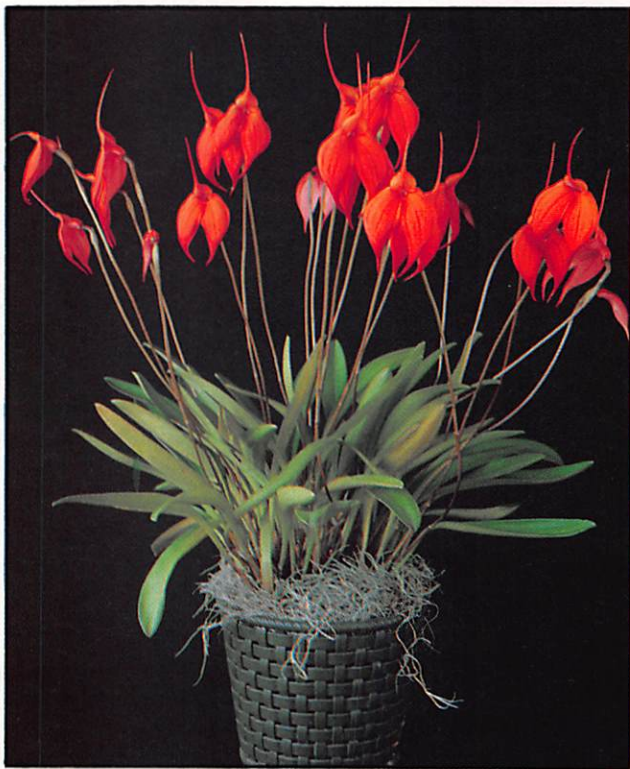
- FCC First Class Certificate (Gold Medal GM.)**
- AM Award of Merit (Silver Medal SM.)**
- HCC Highly Commended Certificate (Bronze medal BM.)**

While most judging bodies use the FCC, AM, HCC terms some bodies including World Orchid Conference use the medal designations. The RHS does not award an HCC.

A special Award is the **AD, Award of Distinction** given to a plant showing a feature never before seen such as the unique red lip seen on *Cym. Jack Hudlow*

given to that hybrid for recognition in posterity. This is the Cultivar name in single inverted commas as 'Joan' above. In cases of species the unique name is called the Varietal name.

A **CC, CCC or CCM** (Cultural Certificate, Certificate of Cultural Commendation or Certificate of Cultural Merit) is given to the



Masd. heathii 'Rose' (NZOS)

Grower: R. & N. Armstrong — Award Photo.

'Joan' which although a well awarded orchid has never before been seen with such a striking red lip.

All of these Awards include the plant and a unique name must be

owner of a plant that is judged to be particularly well grown for that species or hybrid. Other Awards include **Plant Breeders Awards**, and **Certificates of Botanical Merit**.

International Judging Panels

There are a number of well known judging panels, including: the *Royal Horticultural Society Orchid Committee (RHS)*, the *American Orchid Society*

(*AOS*), the *Australian Orchid Council (AOC)*, the *Cymbidium Society of America (CSA)*, the *German Orchid Society (DOG)*, the *Honolulu Orchid Society (HOS)*, and the *Japanese Orchid Society (JOS)*. The abbreviation

for the Judging Panel follows the abbreviation for the award. The many International Panels, including the three New Zealand groups, all recognise the Awards and Judges of other bodies.



Lycaste Auburn 'Tudor' HCC/OCNZ
Grower: Tudor Orchids — Award Photo.

The Development Of Orchid Judging In New Zealand

The New Zealand Orchid Society

In 1958, Bill Potter, the then president of the Auckland based New Zealand Orchid Society (NZOS), and the then secretary Albert

Blackmore, decided to study the judging rules of overseas societies, and finally the Executive Committee agreed to adopt a modified version of the New South Wales rules, and to elect Judges and a Registrar of Awards.

On September 16th 1959, the first 'Panel of Judges' was appointed. This consisted of: Registrar of Awards, and Chairman of the Judging Committee A. H. Blackmore; Full Judges, Messrs J. F. Blackman (Te Kuiti), G. S. Clark, B. B. Cleland, A. K. Corban, F. L. Parker (N Plymouth), W. J. Potter, F. A. Powell, C. R. Reader, and Frank Slattery (Sydney); Associate Judges, Messrs S. A. Greenough, L. Patterson, and Mrs W. A. Blake (Matamata).

Following the establishment of this panel the first competitive orchid show in New Zealand was held by the New Zealand Orchid Society at the Milne and Choyce department store, in Auckland, in Spring 1959. When the decision to have classes and prizes was made, a group of founder members, who opposed any form of competition amongst growers, resigned, but the show was organised, and five of the above panel were invited to be Judges. The Registrar of the Australian Orchid Council, Mr Frank Slattery, was asked to come to New Zealand and act as Chairman. He records that five awards were granted, using guidelines as then set out by the Australian Orchid Council.

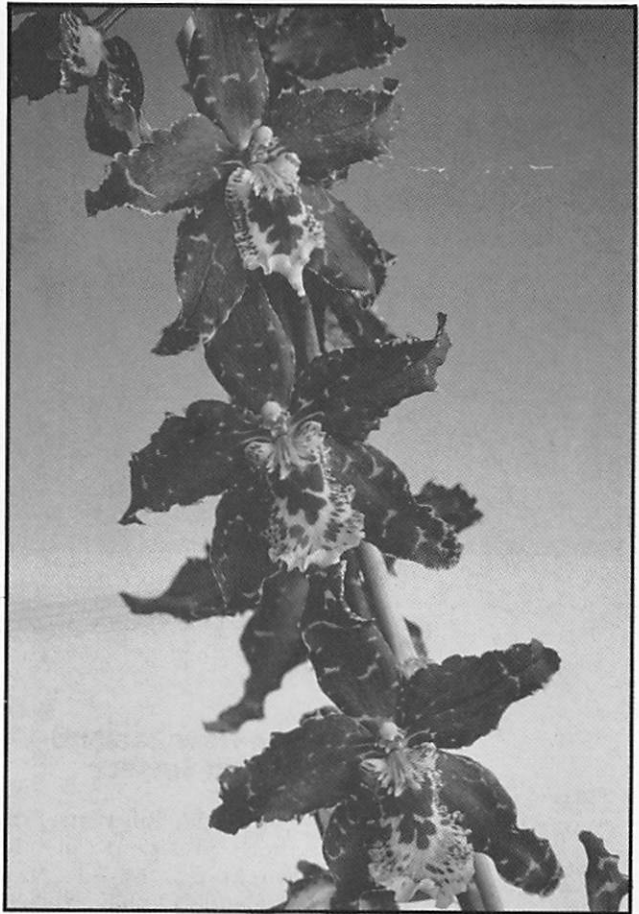
FIRST NZOS (AND
NEW ZEALAND)

AWARDS ALL ON 30th
SEPTEMBER 1959.

1. *Milt.* Pluto 'Mission Bay' AM — G. S. Clark
2. *Cym.* Edna Cobb 'Zena' AM — W. J. Hepburn jnr.
3. *Oda.* Kym 'Lois' HCC — Mr/Mrs B. B. Cleland
4. *Phal.* Mistinguette 'Sarona' HCC — Mr/Mrs B. B. Cleland
5. *Cym.* Jungfrau 'Egmont' HCC - W. J. Hepburn jnr.

International recognition of NZOS Awards was confirmed in 1976, when the secretary of the NZOS was authorised to supply the Royal

Horticultural Society with a list of all awards from the inception of the Judging Panel activities. Also lists were to be forwarded to the American Orchid Society and to the Cymbidium



Alxra. Hec. Hazelwood 'Black Opal' AD/NZOS
Grower: Sunrac Orchids

Society of America. At this meeting Mr I. D. James reminded members present of the necessity for the registration of Awards to be published in the Society's Review.

NZOS Awards were published in the *Review* and since its inception in *Orchids in New Zealand*, in that latter publication.

Orchid Council — National Judging.

The NZOS Judging Panel was the only system of judging active in New Zealand until the Orchid Council of New Zealand, formed in 1974, developed the **CONZED** (Orchid Council of New Zealand **OCNZ**) System which functioned from 1978.

With the publication of the first *Orchids in New Zealand* magazine, in July 1975, came the first opportunity to promulgate national standards for culture and judging. It was announced in that publication that the Orchid Council had appointed a subcommittee to formulate rules and standards, and means of facilitating judging in all areas. The committee was under the chairmanship of Albert Blackmore, and had as members K. A. Blackman, F. A. Burke, F. L. Brljevič, J. T. Dixon, I. D. James, and Mrs H. C. Hanson. It was stated that the Standards and Rules



Dend. Jane Leaney 'Del' CC/NZOS
Grower: Mrs M. LeSueur — Award Photo.

would enable the Council to grant National Awards to qualifying orchid clones, and would be of benefit to those societies conducting competitive shows.

In May 1976 the following statement was printed, over the name of Albert Blackmore:

"I and John Mason were appointed Registrar General and Deputy Registrar General of Awards and Prizes respectively. Members with orchid growing experience and acumen have been invited to take a course of training for judging. Those accepting will be sent the Rules and Standards for study. As a point of interest these are based on the AOS rules. Nominees are aware when the seminars will be held in each district and the details of

instruction are being prepared. It is intended that those judges of the New Zealand Orchid Society (not at that time affiliated to the Orchid Council) who are also members of an Affiliated Society and have accepted the Council's invitation shall attend the seminar in their respective district for a refresher course."

By September 1977 the president of the Orchid Council, Mr Tom French, could report that judging schools had been held, that a total of 45 people were being trained, and that Judging Panels would be in operation by the Spring of 1978. Detailed instructions were given on how to present plants for an award. *Orchids in New Zealand*, dated March 1978,

featured a long and detailed article on Award Judging by Albert Blackmore.

The organisation was in place; sufficient judges had been trained to allow the setting up of four Regional Judging Panels, each controlled by a Regional Registrar, who was held responsible for arranging and conducting judgments within that region. The results, with colour slides of the flowers, were then to be sent to the Registrar General for the verification by him and the Orchid Council.

Region No 1 covered Auckland and North Auckland, with Mrs Edna Willetts as Registrar, Region No 2 Waikato, King Country and Bay of Plenty, with Mr I. D. James in charge; Region No 3 North and South Taranaki, under the instruction of Mr Tom French; and Region No 4 Wellington, Golden Coast, Manawatu, Wanganui, Wairarapa, Hawke's Bay and Poverty Bay, with Mrs Janet Mendoza as Regional Registrar.

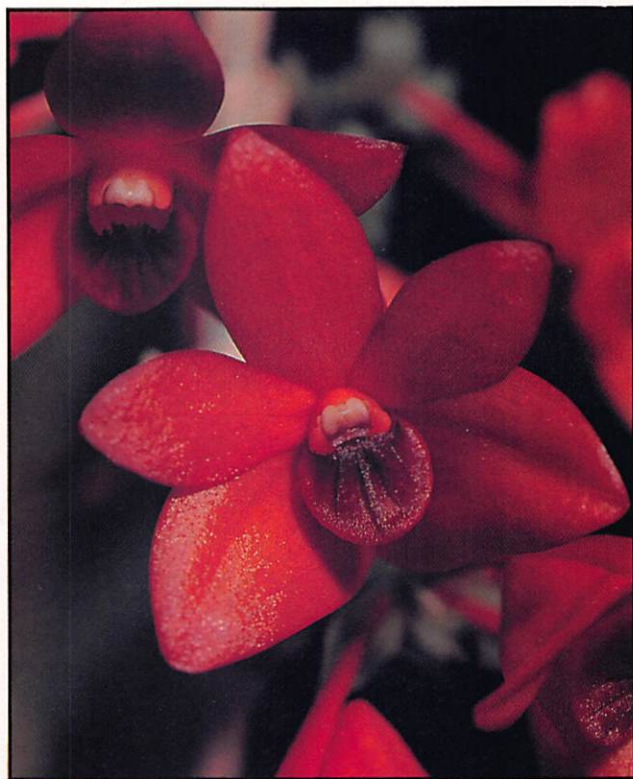
The standards of training were high, records were kept of the practise judging sessions, so, through the system of pointing the plants for awards it was possible to note the progress of each judge. Regional registrars were expected to convene classes, and also to report

to the Registrar General those judges who attended, and those who did not!

A national judging committee of five was appointed, to deal with all matters of policy, and to be responsible to the Orchid Council Executive. The first five were — A. H. Blackmore, and F. E. J. Mason, from the Auckland panel; I. D. James, from Waikato region; Tom French, from Taranaki; and Mrs Janet Mendoza from Wellington.

The standards and regulations were printed in booklet form, and all judges were expected to buy one. The Registrar General had "no hesitation in assuring that judging will be done expertly and I hope that the services will be appreciated and taken advantage of."

Mr Blackmore took his responsibilities very seriously, and ensured that all orchid society members were kept informed by writing detailed articles. In



Dend. mohlianum 'Erramunga' HCC/NZOS
Grower: F. Brijevich — Award Photo.

March 1979 he defined the standards for judging miniature *cymbidiums* for awards. His committee ruled that miniature and standard *cymbidiums* should have different judging standards. He stated that for competitive shows, various classes could be placed in the Show Schedule, and the judges 'instructed' by the Show Committee. Mr Blackmore emphasised for miniature *cymbidiums* that Orchid Council Judges should consider the whole plant, and that it must be a

miniature, irrespective of parentage. No *Cymbidium* with a natural spread across the petals of more than 75 mms would be admitted into miniature *cymbidium* category regardless of breeding. Cut spikes would not be judged.

A 5th Judging region was established in 1979, for the Hawke's Bay and Poverty Bay area, and it was reported that 10 Judges, and 7 Associate Judges had been appointed, with 2 Senior Judges being transferred to

the category of Reserve Judges, at their request.

In his president's report 1985, Mr Darrell Bell said that the Orchid Council's judging system was difficult to administer to ensure that a continual and satisfactory standard was achieved on a national basis. That year an amended and revised handbook was printed, available to all Judges and Associates. It would appear that delays between the actual judging and ratification by Council were making for difficulties in communication and co-operation.

The Registrar General's report shows that two more regions were established in 1985. In that year two set examinations for OCNZ Judges had taken place, and 17 additional judges had been appointed.

The regional and national seminars have made for higher standards and greater co-operation, so that New Zealand Orchid Judges are freely accepted and judge at international shows throughout the world. Both NZOS and OCNZ Awards are recognised internationally. The Awards of the Council together with those of the NZOS are published in *Orchids in New Zealand*.

The Orchid Council judging system now has some 200 personnel involved including trainees and judging groups are



Masd. falcata 'Cliffy's' AM, CC/OCNZ
Grower: C. E. M. Cole — Award Photo/G. Fuller.

located at Whangarei, Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Rotorua, Gisborne, Hawkes Bay, Taranakai, Manawatu-Wellington, Marlborough, Nelson, Christchurch and Otago-Southland.

The Cymbidium Society of America, New Zealand Branch.

A third judging system was introduced into New Zealand in 1983. The **Cymbidium Society of America, (CSA)**, which was a group of largely West Coast Americans concerned with the judging of *Cymbidiums* and *Paphiopedilums*, had agreed to extend its influence overseas for the first time.

At the quarterly Board Meeting in 1982 the CSA agreed to the inauguration of a judging system for *Cymbidiums* and *Paphiopedilums* in New Zealand using the criteria refined over the years by the CSA, which use a points system.

The original group in New Zealand was known as the Australasian Branch but after several years of success here, an Australian Branch of the CSA was formed and the NZ Group became the New Zealand Branch. Initially, enough United States Judges attended judging sessions in New Zealand, at NZOS



Dend. (King Falcon x Fiesta) HCC/NZOS
Grower: Sunrae Orchids — Award Photo.

and Waikato Orchid Society Shows, and a training programme was introduced whereby candidates progressed through the stages of Clerk, Associate Judge to Full Judge.

The first New Zealand president was Tony Ballard, the secretary/treasurer was Ray Dix, the chairman of judging was Andy Easton, himself an American trained CSA Judge as well as the Judge of the American Orchid Society.

Writing in *Orchids in New Zealand* in 1983, Wesley Ross-Taylor, then president of the Orchid Council, expressed some disquiet about the introduction of another system in New Zealand. Remarkably this fear was far from justified and the three judging systems have worked harmoniously together, possibly stimulated by the responsibilities of providing optimum judging for the 1990 World Orchid Conference, and aided by a number of the

senior judges being 'pointing' methods of criteria used in the involved in all three judging as well as various different genera. systems. ◀

The CSA minimise its committee work but provides several judging seminars each year, some in association with the bigger shows, and has a traditional seminar annually on Anzac Day when the early flowering *Cymbidiums* and *Paphiopedilums* are discussed. The Awards of the CSA branch appear with those of the parent body in the *Orchid Advocate* which is received by all members.



Bulbophyllum medusae 'Whiskers' CC/NZOS
Grower: L. Fitzgerald.

The second part of this article will discuss the 'appreciation' and

ANNUAL SUMMER ORCHID DISPLAY PUKEKURA PARK, NEW PLYMOUTH

8th to 10th January 1993

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

- Specialist workshops on odontoglossum, masdevallia, paphiopedilum and disa.
- Guided tour of spectacular illuminations.
- Local collections available for viewing.
- Visitors invited to bring plants for display or sale.

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL FOR SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER

Further details available from your local Society Secretary but note deadline for dinner bookings is 31st December 1992.

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

Watering

Water is vital to plant life. Plants are predominantly composed of water. Water is important to nearly every physiological process ongoing in living plant tissue. Carbon dioxide and water are combined in photosynthesis to make the food necessary for plant survival. Water acts as a vehicle for the uptake of minerals through the roots and the distribution of minerals and substances within the plant.

Overwatering and Underwatering

Epiphytes have evolved to withstand dry conditions to some extent. A prolonged period of almost deliberate water neglect is usually necessary to produce drought responses in a well rooted orchid. Slight shrivelling of the succulent leaves of cattleya type orchids can be noticed under water stress, developing wrinkles and bumpy patches. Thinner leaves may curl under water deprivation. Some orchid leaves may react by dying back at the tips. Pseudobulbs which normally develop furrows with age will become deeply grooved under dry conditions. Actively growing leaves and pseudobulbs are the most vulnerable to stress. Expanding leaves, especially those of the thinner leafed genera, are likely to develop a case of accordion pleating. Over watering is a far more common error committed in orchid culture. All zealous orchid growers

know how hard it is to resist watering. Ironically overwatering can bring about the same responses in orchids as watering too little. The reason for this lies in the inability of the roots to take up the water supplied. Watering more than necessary results in a perpetually soggy, decomposing potting medium poorly aerated. Without oxygen roots cannot grow and will prematurely die. An overly wet orchid is also more subject to disease. As both under and overwatering can cause similar responses how is the grower to know on which side they are erring? The answer is of course, observation of the roots. A well established orchid with a healthy root system won't budge in the pot. If such an orchid is showing stress signs it is most likely underwatered and only needs more frequent watering to regain good health. A plant with a distressed root system having few healthy roots to hold it in place will shift easily in its pot with a

nudge or jiggle. It will be necessary to remove the plant from its pot for further examination. If overwatering has occurred probably both the potting medium and the roots will be dark wet and decomposed. Dead roots will easily separate from the plant. Those dead roots still attached to the plant should be removed and the orchid repotted in fresh medium.

Factors Determining Water Demand

Environment. High light, high temperatures, low humidity and rapid air movement increase transpiration rate. Plant in active growth. Potting media — rarely is it ever recommended that a potting media be allowed to become entirely dry. The surface may very well be dry while the region further down where most of the roots reside, can still be moist. By habitually lifting pots at all stages of wetness one can develop a good sense of how light a pot should be when the orchid requires water. All growers

make occasional mistakes, but good growers become keen observers of the condition of their plants both above and below the surface. The orchid will allow its roots to grow in the direction of the best supply of water, the roots act like blotting paper and soak up the enriched water. Once in the root system the orchid will proceed to process the nutrients contained. Gradually by chemical reaction the elements are separated from the water. Some water and the chemicals are transported to the cells for nutrition. Availability of water in the form of humidity in the air seems to be essential for movement of water through the plants system.

If you walk into a glasshouse a humid atmosphere can be sensed and so can the lack of humidity. Provide adequate ventilation along with adequate humidity.

Use of Water in Orchid Growing

1. Transport nutrients to plant roots.
2. Provide a means of nutrients entering plant system.
3. To transport the nutrients within the plant system.
4. Provide oxygen and hydrogen contained in the water molecule.
5. Permit the plant to excrete waste products by respiration through the leaf stomata.

6. Provide humidity to allow easy flow of water through the plant system.
7. Flush out toxic salts from the growing media.
8. Keep the nutrients in a dissolved system in the media so the plant can take up those nutrients.
9. Clean the foliage of the plant so optimum photo-synthesis can occur.
10. Adequate humidity, preventing dehydration and encourage respiration. ◀

Rotorua Orchid Society
Newsletter, September 1991

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

FLASKS of cool growing Brazilian and Australian species from \$7.50. Shout yourself one for Christmas. Write or call Gilchrist Micro Popogations, 11 Seon Place, Birkdale, Auckland Ph 0-9-483 7731 for free flask price list.

NEW FLASK LIST - 19 pages, 93 Australain dendrobs. and Sarcs. 30 Cattleya, 11 Cymbidium, 52 species, 28 Odontoglossum and Oncidium, 54 Paphs, 18 Phalaenopsis. Send \$5 (refundable with first order) to House of Orchids, 145 Manuku Road, Glenfield, Auckland 10.

AUSTRALIAN GROWER keen to contact owner of yellow *Disa Uniflora* please write to Jack McKinlay, 1/6 City View Terrace Birkenhead, Auckland or phone collect after hours 0-9-480 7739.

Classified advertisements in Orchids in New Zealand obtain results.

Post your copy (30 words) and cheque for \$18.00 to:

Orchids in New Zealand
Classifieds
16 Bowen Street, Waiuku.

CAMPBELL & RUSHWORTH ORCHIDS

*Stunning releases ex Hawaii
Well established plants in 3" pots.*

**\$5 each plus \$6 postage &
packing fee per order**

SEND TO:

**6 ARAWA STREET
CHRISTCHURCH 1
PHONE 0-3-385 5483**

Cattleyas - Molly Tyler x Portia,
Chalkogone, Forbesii x violacea,
Portia coerulea.

Slc. Valezac B. Miles,
Cheah Chuan Kiat,
Rose Mary Clooney.

Lc. Eva Robinson Nelson

Onc. Bauri x amplicitum x
flaxuosum

Vanda Miss Joaquim (smaller pots)

NEW ZEALAND ORCHID SOCIETY SPRING SHOW 1992

THE winter ills continued in Auckland and the rest of New Zealand to make what everyone called a poor season for orchids. Lack of sufficient light because of few sunny days and uniform low temperatures caused late flowering for most and also poor size in the flowers. In spite of these grumbles the New Zealand Orchid Society Spring Show in late September demonstrated that some growers still manage to bring out the best in their plants. Overall quality was better than last year.

Three Awards of Merit and two Highly Commended Certificates were granted by the judging panel of the New Zealand Orchid Society to emphasise quality on display. Grand Champion Orchid of the Show went to *Sl. Marriottiana* 'Orange' (*L. flava* x *Soph. coccinea*) exhibited by Jim James. A remake cross of his own with five startling bright mustard colour flowers this was a very good example of the high standard of mini cattleya that Jim grows and exhibits and he was awarded with an AM/NZOS. Reserve Champion was *Paph. haynaldianum* 'Papha Aroha' also granted an AM/NZOS as well as a S/CSA. Barry Fraser of Papa Aroha Orchids always seems to produce outstanding paphs, species or hybrids, grown so well that all growers of this genus are consumed with envy. This was no exception with seven inflorescences showing twenty four flowers and

twenty one buds. Such was the number and size of the flowers that the plant richly deserved its awards in spite of the ratio of open flowers to buds.

Grand Champion Cymbidium was a strong growing white *Cym. Noarlunga* 'Enfield' (Southborough x Mary Ann) with thirty six flowers and thirteen buds on three spikes. Exhibited by Assid

and Miriam Corban, so busy were they in the middle of electioneering for Waitakere City, that they did not know they had won this trophy until they picked up their plants at the end of the show. Reserve Champion Cymbidium was *Cym. Rae James* 'Sigma' with its lovely white flowers with delicate flushing belonging to Jean Allen. The thirteen



Cym. Jack Hudlow 'Waikanae'

flowers trained upright were smaller than usually seen on this cultivar, but they were still a picture.

Champion Intermediate Cymbidium was Tony Ballard's *Cym.* Jack Hudlow 'Waikanae' (High Sierra x *devonianum*) with thirty flowers and eleven buds on three spikes. This lovely green flower with such fine shape and solid deep red lip is a real show stopper, and was granted a B/CSA on this flowering. Best Miniature Cymbidium was Mick Hughes' *Cym.* Dr Baker x *devonianum* 'Arthur'. Ten pendulous spikes showed up too many flowers to count.

While still on cymbidiums JD Nicholls exhibited a fine specimen *Cym.* Flame Hawk 'Lipper' (Touchstone x Sensation) with no less than twenty two pendulous inflorescences hanging three hundred and seventy four flowers and forty seven buds. So floriferous was this plant that flower spikes were layered displaying the mass of rich magenta pink flowers. The Cymbidium Society of America granted a CA/CSA. A delicate soft pink flushed white intermediate cymbidium, *Cym.* (Stanley Fouraker x Vogelsang) 'Clare' of Tony Ballard's with pendulous spikes holding thirty seven flowers and one bud was awarded an HCC/NZOS.

Other genera orchids were not outdone in the award stakes with *Drula*. Memoria Maia Archila 'Val's Own' a remake of the cross (*Drac. chimaera* x *Masd. veitchiana*) by Val Bayliss gaining an AM/NZOS for Jean Allen with two fine bronze mustard flowers. A very lovely miltoniopsis *Milt.* Capitola 'Kim' (Ambre x Butterfly) of very pale lemon colour with scarlet striped yellow mask shown by Dot Batey was granted a HCC/NZOS with four flowers of good size on two inflorescences. Also catching the eye was a

white phalaenopsis *Phal.* (Malibu Incognito x (Malibu Carnival x Jane McHenry)) displaying it's nine large flowers and two buds well and exhibited by Brian Main.

More people than is usual came to the show this year and were treated to the sight of many other fine orchids displayed. The New Zealand Orchid Society show committee were well satisfied with the exhibits, attendance and sales, as well as the improved quality.

Ray Dix
September 1992

NZOS 1992 SPRING SHOW TROPHY WINNERS 24th September 1992

Grand Champion Orchid of the Show: Centennial Cup.
Slc. Marriottiana — I D James
Grand Champion Cymbidium: Society Cup.
Cym. Noarlunga 'Enfield' — Corbans Orchids

Reserve Champion Cymbidium: Waikato Orchid Society's Cup.
Cym. Rae James 'Sigma' — J Allen
Champion Intermediate Cymbidium Hazel Hanson Memorial Trophy.
Cym. Jack Hudlow 'Waikanae' — Tony Ballard



Slc. Marriottiana 'Orange'

- Best plant or cut spike, excluding Cymbidium: Patterson Cup.
Paph. haynaldianum 'Papa Aroha' — B Fraser
- Best Phalaenopsis: Domandic Cup.
Phal. Malibu Incognito 'Jill' x (Malibu Carnival x Jane McHenry) — B J Main
- Best specimen plant:
Geoff Laird Memorial Trophy.
Cym. Flame Hawk 'Lipper' — J D Nicholls
- Best Dendrobium species or hybrid: Ross Cup.
Den. Sun Sprite—G & K Jackson
- NZOS Cup for best Dendrobium: Dendrobium Trophy.
Den. Warrambool — R & N Armstrong
- Best NZ hybridised and raised first flowering seedling:
Des Leahy Trophy.
Cym. So Bold — Ray Dix
- Miniature species or hybrid:
Joan Parker Trophy.
Drac. cochliops — Val Bayliss
- Best Cattleya Alliance: Potter Cup.
Slc. Marriottiana — I D James
- Best Lycaste Alliance: Alison Cup
Lycaste. John Ezzy 'Flamingo' — Margaret Liddell
- Best Oncidiinae Alliance:
Blackmore Trophy.
Wils. Nicola Jane 'Joy' — S & N Pye
- Best species: Taylor Trophy.
Paph. haynaldianum 'Papa Aroha' — B Fraser
- Best export Cymbidium:
Aldridge Trophy.
Cym. Noarlunga 'Enfield' — Corbans Orchids
- Best Intermediate Cymbidium:
Molly Clark Trophy.
Cym. Flame Hawk 'Lipper' — J D Nicholls
- Miniature Cymbidium:
Frank Brljevic Trophy.
Cym. Dr Baker 'Bewitched' x *devonianum* 'Arthur' - M Hughes
- Best Miniature Cymbidium: Ken Blackman Memorial Trophy.
Cym. Dr Baker 'Bewitched' x *devonianum* 'Arthur' - M Hughes
- Best first flowering Cymbidium seedling: Willets Cup.
Cym. Claude Pepper x (Vieux Rose x Cariga) — Ray Dix
- Best novice coloured Cymbidium:
Hansen Cup.
Cym. Fancy Free 'Geyersland' — C R & K E Hutchings
- Best classes 1, 2, 8 & 9. Sunrae Orchids Seedling Prize #1
Cym. Bewitched Baker — G I Leafberg
- Best first flowering, any other genus. Sunrae Orchids Seedling Prize #2.
Odont. Bittersweet — C Scholes
- Best Pleurothallid Alliance:
Carpenter Trophy.
Masd. Mem. Maria Archila — J Allen
- Best novice Cymbidium:
Blackman Bowl.
Cym. Fancy Free 'Geyersland' C R & K E Hutchings
- Points Prize Open
F L Brljevic
- Points Prize Novice
C R & K E Hutchings
- Best Floral Art entry:
Greenough Trophy.
Reflections — John Gaylard
- Floral Art Points Prize:
Volkner Trophy.
Faith Grausch



Cym. Flame Hawk 'Lipper'

THE GENUS PHAIUS

The Orchid Genus *Phaius* dates from the year 1790, when the missionary botanist Loureiro established it in his *Flora Cochinchinensis* (page 529). He obtained his name from the Greek adjective oaios, which means dusky, or dun- or gray-coloured. The original species was called *P. grandifolius*, but due to a prior name, it is now correctly named *P. tancarvilleae*.

This species is by far the commonest member of the group in cultivation, being of very simple growth requirements, handsome appearance even when not in bloom, and extremely floriferous. It is extensively distributed in the Asiatic and Australian tropics, and has been introduced and naturalized in Cuba, Jamaica and Panama. Vegetatively it is rather characteristic of the genus: a cluster of rather irregular, ringed pseudobulbs up to 75 mm tall give rise to several very large (to 1 metre tall and 200 mm wide) folded leaves. The 100 mm, sweetly fragrant blossoms are borne on robust erect spikes which sometimes attain a height of as much as 1.5 metres. The sepals and petals are mealy-white outside and a particularly handsome shade of reddish-brown inside; the tubular lip (which give the flower the appearance of a *Cattleya*) is dull magenta-red, the flaring middle lobe generally being whitish marginally.

The cultural requirements of *Phaius tancarvilleae* are the basic ones for the entire genus. The plants should be grown in pots (or in specially-prepared beds in the ground) in a compost of mixed leaf-mould, sharp sand, good heavy loam, and dried chopped manure. Rotted osmunda and sphagnum moss may also be added; liberal applications of rather strong manure-water are highly beneficial while the plants are in active growth. Copious water should be given them while growing, but when the spikes begin to show, this moisture should be sharply curtailed or stopped altogether until after flowering, when it may be gradually resumed. Most *Phaius* delight in a fresh sunny location at all times. The compost must never be permitted to sour.

Phaius is a genus of somewhat more than forty species, native in the subtropics and tropics of Asia, Australia, Africa (and its adjacent island groups), Indonesia and the

Pacific Isles. Among the other fine species of the group are *P. amboinensis* (Malay Peninsula to New Guinea and the Caroline Islands), with large white and yellow flowers; *P. callosus* (Indonesia), a robust plant with greenish or yellow-brown and purple flowers; *P. flavus* (Malay Peninsula), with handsome yellow-blotched foliage and medium sized butter-yellow blossoms; and *P. wallichii* (Ceylon, India), similar to *P. tancarvilleae*, but with larger darker flowers. A rather large series of hybrids are known, many of them of exceptional beauty.

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Something Different



Dendrobium lawesii

Grower: K. & S. Smith, Wellington

This brightly coloured member of Schlechter's *Calyptrichilus* Section of the genus *Dendrobium* is said to be widely distributed throughout New Guinea, being one of the most widely occurring members of that Section. It is found in the mist forest habitat zone.