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*in New Zealand*

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# Orchids

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**VOL. 19 No. 1**

**FEBRUARY 1993**

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# THE CHALLENGE

Most organisations, and this does not just include orchid growing clubs, are struggling to retain members, and even more so to attract new devotees to their ranks.

As a first challenge, all organisations must ensure that they are providing what the members require because if they do not, they will not retain those members they currently have. Programmes run must provide items of interest and information to the new growers, but also, must provide interest and challenge to those who have been growing for a number (many?) of years. The ability of a club to sustain the ongoing interest of members is often the difference between one that is successful, and that which is gradually going out of existence. There is no easy way for the desirable attributes to be achieved; the ongoing will to succeed, and the ability to look at what others are doing, and an innovative flair on the part of the leaders helps, but without the involvement and contributions of ALL members of the club success will be difficult if not impossible to achieve.

Some societies are taking innovative actions, as noted in this magazine.

## editorial



The Kapiti Coast Society attracted a lot of interest with their potting and cultural session at a large plant nursery. Obviously, some people wanted something for nothing, but nevertheless the opportunity was presented to talk to a wide range of new orchid growers and the challenge is to present the formal orchid growing

organisation in such a way that those with just one or two plants would see benefits and enjoyment in joining the clubs.

All orchid societies have a common interest, and if your club has had success in attracting and retaining new members, write to **Orchids in New Zealand** so we can pass on the experience for all to consider and adopt if appropriate. ◀

*“It’s nice  
to be appreciated”*

to: NEV & JACQUI

*Your orchids are so lovely,  
They really are a treat!  
All potted, fed, & watered,  
They come up oh so neat!*

*The lovely one you gave us,  
Is settled in it’s new home,  
We give it quite a lot of love  
It’s hardly ere alone!*

*So thanks to Nev & Jacqui  
Our visit was such fun,  
But we don’t envy you  
and yours,*

*The work that’s to be done!*

ANG

# POTTING DEMONSTRATION

On Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th November 1992, the **Kapiti Orchid Society** in conjunction with the **Levin and Districts Orchid Society** gave a demonstration on repotting orchids to members of the public between the hours of 11 am to 3 pm on both days.

This event came about following month long discussions with Mr Peter Hawker of Hawkers Greenworld whereby it was agreed that we hold this demonstration at Hawkers Greenworld Garden Centres, Main Highway, Otaki and Kapiti Road, Paraparaumu.

Both radio and newspaper advertising was arranged by Mr Peter Hawker and the Societies were to provide the expertise for repotting of the orchids, free potting mix for this exercise was provided by L. T. Watkins Home and Garden Products Ltd., as well as free "Phostrogen" food for all those who brought along a 2 litre container. As well, Hawkers Greenworld supplied *free pots* for repotting divisions, along with other pots at very reduced prices.

During our discussions with Mr Peter Hawker leading up to this demonstration, it was noted that a great need

existed in the community by the public, who have been buying a large number of orchids over the years, for information on how to grow these beautiful plants etc. This I feel is where orchid societies need to promote themselves more.

Consequently when the day arrived for the potting demonstration, we at Kapiti Orchid Society were overwhelmed by members of the public bringing their plants along for advice and repotting. So much so that our three members working on Saturday and four members on Sunday had a hard time coping with the sixty six plants that were brought along to us.

While working on these plants we were able to talk to the owners, answering their questions, and helping them with culture and general growing advice. Our Public Relations Officer had a field day taking names and addresses of everyone who

came along. These members of the public were a captive audience, and all received a package which included instructions on how to grow their *Cymbidiums*, as well as information on the Orchid Society activities and when and where meetings are held, along with a membership form.

We gained new members from this exercise, as well as having a list of people who grow orchids to which we will be inviting to our monthly meetings with no obligation to join our society.

In conclusion, it was felt by both Mr Peter Hawker and ourselves that as this was such a successful venture that it should be repeated in 1993. To date arrangements have been made to do so, as it is felt also that the goodwill built up between the Garden Centre, the Orchid Society and the Public needs to be maintained.



## Feature of the Month . . .

This month we commence a series on early flowering cymbidiums. The papers, presented at a recent Cymbidium Society of America — NZ Branch Seminar, will continue over a number of issues.

Potting Demonstrations  
continued from page 3

Hopefully, in the future we will see other societies partaking in similar ventures as the results can only be beneficial to all those who are willing to give some of their time to help to promote orchids. ◀

P. J. Stephens  
President  
Kapiti Orchid Society

# SIGNIFICANT BREEDING CYMBIDIUMS FOR THE EARLIES

by Frank Brljevič

**T**HE SPECIES that have had a marked influence on breeding of early *cymbidiums* are *erthrostylum* and *tracyanum* and also we would have to consider *hookerianum*, or *grandiflorum*, the name under which I have known it.

The first crossings using any of these species was registered in 1902 when Veitch crossed *lowianum* and *grandiflorum* to produce Lowio-grandiflorum, a grex that we still see today though often misnamed as *lowianum*. Also in 1902 Sir Frederick Wigan registered a crossing of *eburneum* with *tracyanum* which was called Wiganianum. In 1908 de Barrie Crayshaw registered Rosefieldense (*grandiflorum* x *tracyanum*). In 1912 McBeans produced Doris (*insigne* x *tracyanum*), one that is familiar to most of us. Fred J. Hanbury registered Hanburyanum (*erythrostylum* x *tracyanum*) in 1914 and so it was from hybrids such as these that early *cymbidium* breeding was started.

It is interesting to note that *erythrostylum* was used as a parent twelve times between 1946-60, and included in these was the significant cross with Edward Marshall to make Early Bird. During 1961-70 it was used eight times and three times between 1971-75. During 1981-90 only three crosses were registered, all with miniatures.

The species *tracyanum* was used sixteen times between 1946-70 including the cross with Butterfly to make Early Harvest. It was forgotten between 1971-80 but since then up to 1990 it has been used six times.

Doris was used twenty five times as a parent between 1946-70 and was



*Cymbidium erythrostylum* 'Magnificum'

not used again until 1987 when Clive Halls registered Len Rayner (x Carisan). Hanburyanum was used seven times between 1946-60, the most interesting cross being with Eagle to produce Jolity. It has only been used once since then. The last registration with Wiganianum were in the 1946-60 period.

In 1946 Sanders registered the crossing of (Edward Marshall x *erythrostylum*), named Early Bird, and was destined to have a significant influence in the breeding of earlies. The finding of a chance tetraploid, the cultivar 'Pacific', was to open a whole new direction in breeding early flowering *cymbidiums*. By using this clone with tetraploids such as Balkis and Alexanderi 'Westonbirt', size and shape were greatly enhanced as was the keeping qualities of the new hybrids. Early Bird was bred with all the early species present in its background. One parent was *erythrostylum* and the other, Edward Marshall, registered by Sanders in 1925 was (Albatross x Doris). Albatross registered in 1915 by Sanders was (Gottianum x *grandiflorum*), Doris having *tracyanum* as a parent.

In the 1946-60 period only three crosses using Early Bird were registered

the most notable being Stanley Fouraker (x Alexanderi 'Westonbirt') registered by Stewarts in 1958. Stanley Fouraker is still being used frequently with nineteen crosses registered between 1985-90. In the period 1961-70, twenty two Early Bird crosses were registered, the two most notable being 1962 Earlyana (x Louisiana) and 1964 Fred Stewart (x Balkis) both by Stewarts. Early Bird now appears to have been superseded with only five hybrids since 1970.

Stanley Fouraker has been used extensively with ninety five hybrids registered up to 1990. In the period 1961-70, twenty four hybrids were registered. Included in these were Silent Night (x Allegro), Twelfth Night (x Charmant), Poetic (x Desiree A'Logann), White Christmas (x Early Bird), and Arcadian Melody (x Irish Melody). Arcadian Melody when crossed with Coraki produced the popular show and commercial flower Arcadian Sunrise 'Golden Fleece'.

During 1971-75 twenty eight hybrids were registered with one of the most notable being Stewarts crossing of Winter Fair (x Fred Stewart). Only six hybrids were registered in the next five years up to

1980. Since then a further thirty seven hybrids have been registered with Mount Cook (x Miretta), registered 1982 being the best known in New Zealand and Australia.

Earlyana had Louisiana (Louis Sander x *tracyanum*) as its other parent thereby introducing *tracyanum* into the bloodlines. I am not sure when Earlyana was bred but although registered in 1962, its first crossing, Bethlehem (x Frederica) was registered in 1963. Frederica registered in 1935 had Hanburyanum as a parent. Bethlehem has forty two crosses registered up until 1987 when the last cross was made.

Earlyana has been bred with a number of early parents such as Atlantes (= Vesper Bells), San Miguel (= Herald Angels), Sussex (= Magi's Gift), Bethlehem (= Three Wise Men), Lunagrad (= Luana), Stanley Fouraker (= Valley Mayflower), Rincon (= Christmas Morn), Ultimatum (= Lookout), White Christmas (= Winter Joy), Fred Stewart (= Seraphim), and Winter Fair (= Arctic Song).

Bethlehem has been used twenty three times, the last being 1989 when Santa Barbara registered November Woods (x Redcoat). The progeny of Bethlehem include such



crosses as Baltic Dawn (x Solana Beach), Margaret Connor (x Fred Stewart), Rincon Beth (x Rincon), Memoria Ken Blackman (x Sensation), Cloudland (x Trigo Royale), Victoria Arvanitis (x Dainty), and Early Magic (x Stanley Fouraker).

Fred Stewart also has had a great impact on early breeding. Like Stanley Fouraker it was a tetraploid and was also a descendant of Alexanderi 'Westonbirt'. From that line Fred Stewart was able to pass on size, shape, substance and good keeping qualities. A total of sixty four crosses have been registered, the last being Angels Flight (x Angelica) in 1987. Some of the hybrids are Beauty Fred (x Vanguard), Cotton Candy (x Vieux Rose), Via Rincon (x Rincon), Via Costa (x Solana Beach), Winter Fair (x Stanley Fouraker), Aratika (x Acapulco Gold), Rod Stewart (x *parishii*), and Star Lee (x Winter Fair).

Winter Fair was registered by Stewarts in 1971 and has produced fifty one hybrids during the ensuing twenty years. It is a grex that has been bred "in the purple" having Early Bird as a grandparent on both sides and with Alexanderi 'Westonbirt' as a grandparent on one side and as a great grandparent on the other. Among it's progeny are Winter Wonder (x

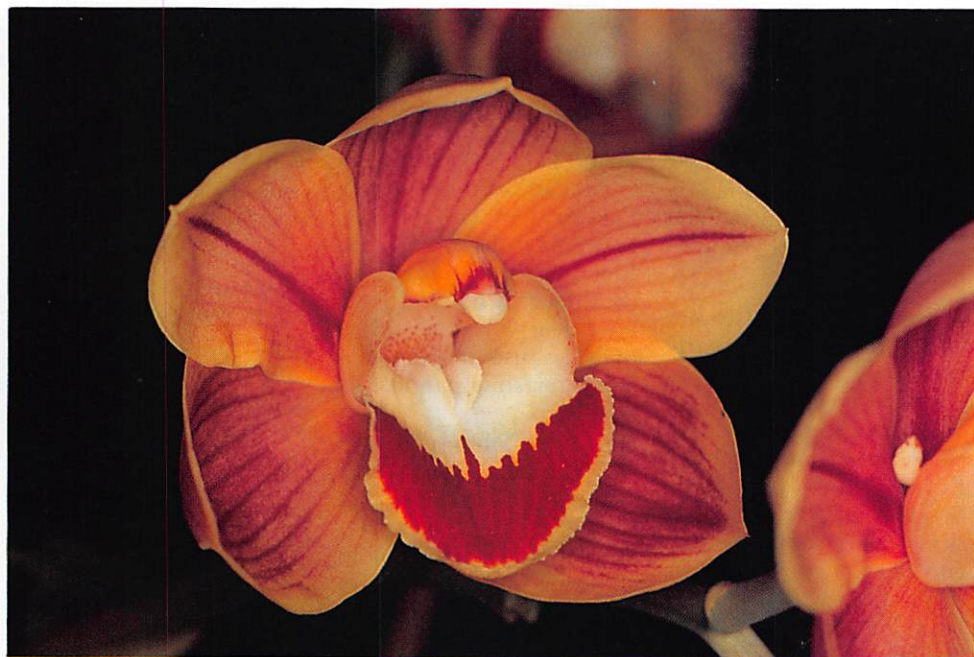
Fanfare), Baltic Moon (x Ricon Lady), Four Fair (x Stanley Fouraker), Baltic Snow (x Trigo Royale), Arctic Song (x Earlyana), Poetic Fair (x Poetic), Isla O'Connor (x Scaramouche), Pursuit (x Ultimatum), and Solana Fair (x Solana Beach). It should be continued to be used for a few years yet as plant breeders use it with new and interesting parents.

In 1970 Cobbs registered Trigo Royale (Rosinante x October). There does not appear to be any early species in the background of Rosinante. A possible exception to this could be a grandparent, Toucan, which is listed as parents unknown. On the other side October (Autumn Tints x Guelda) has all three. Autumn Tints has both *erythrostylum* and *tracyanum* as grandparents. Guelda has both *grandiflorum* and *tracyanum* as grandparents, so it is evident that the early genes come from October. Altogether there have been fourteen hybrids made from October and has been used with parents such as Rincon (= Mount Hood) and Winter Fair (= Via October Invierno).

Trigo Royale has had twenty two hybrids registered. These include Baltic Snow (x Winter Fair), Baltic Song (x Baltic Snow), Baltic Honey (x Ultimatum), Tracey Reddaway (x Coraki), Nancie Bonham (x Good

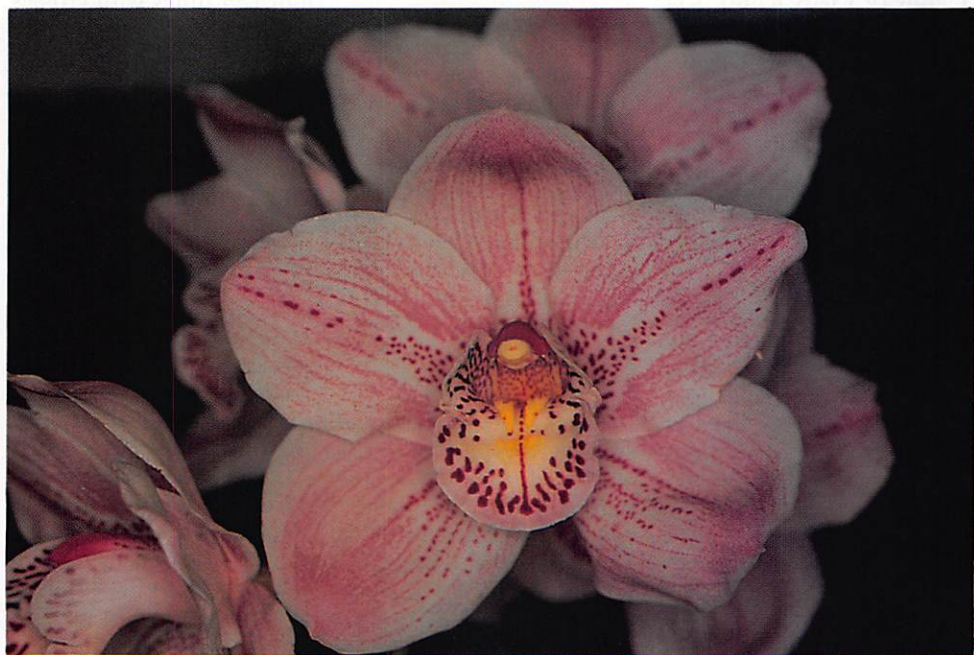
News), Karaka Park (x Stanley Fouraker) and Winter Royale (x Winter Dew). All the offspring of Trigo Royale have been registered in the last ten years. I believe we will see more in the future.

Ultimatum (West Winds x Lucense) was registered in 1978 by Santa Barbara Orchid Estate. West Winds (Grand Monarch x Atlantes) has *grandiflorum* as a grandparent and *tracyanum* as a great grandparent. Lucense (Lucy x Moirense) has *tracyanum* as a grandparent and *grandiflorum* as great grandparent of Lucy. Moirense has both *erthrostylum* and *tracyanum* as grandparents so there is a large pool of early genes. Ultimatum has been used fourteen times with crosses such as Lookout (x Earlyana), Happy Days (x Fanfare), Alliance (x Lucy Moor), Pursuit (x Winter Fair), Many Horses (x Zephyr), and Angelica's Ultimatum (x Angelica). Of these hybrids the two that have been most used are Alliance, five times with parents such as Many Horses (= Anker), Abcoude (= Waver), Angelica seven times to create the following hybrids. Many Angels (x Angelica), Mierlander (x Miretta), Waylands (x Puppy Love), and Many Greens (x Vieux Rose). Ultimatum or its progeny should continue to be used regularly into the future.



Top: *Cymbidium Corakai* 'Rewa' Grower: Norm Porter

Bottom: *Cymbidium Pink Champagne* 'Featherhill' 4N Grower: Norm Porter



A look through the *Orchid Advocate* over the last three years shows that there have been twenty awards for early flowering *cymbidiums*. Only four were standard *cymbidiums*. It is interesting to note that ten of the miniature or novelty *cymbidiums* and three of the standard had Rincon or one of its progeny as a parent. This shows that Rincon is still producing award quality plants and with the right partners, also produces early flowers.

Rincon (Pearl x Windsor) was registered in 1957. Pearl has *grandiflorum* as a parent and Windsor has *erythrostylum* as a parent. Rincon is one of the commonly used stud plants having been used one hundred and nineteen times up to 1990. It is still being used extensively producing thirty six crosses in 1986-90. Among the hybrids that have come from Rincon are Early Alice (x Early Bird), Mariner (x Stanley Fouraker), Grandos (x Vanguard), Pink Champagne (x Rosinante), Shortest Day (x Twelfth Night), Rincon Beth (x Bethlehem), Iced Angel (x Carol Cox), Mount Hood (x October), Solana Beach (x Atlantes), Via Del Playa (x Solana Beach), Snow Spell (x Baltic Snow), Fast Lane (x Beauty Fred), Paint Lobos (x Jolity), Matipo (x Memoria Ken Blackman), Pebbles (x Red

Beauty), Harry Sakel (x Victoria Arvanitis), and Christmas Morn (x Earlyana).

Solana Beach was registered in 1969 and had Atlantes (Alexanderi x *erythrostylum*) as its other parent. Some of the parents with which it has been crossed are Winter Solstice (= Via Del Soledad), Bethlehem (= Baltic Dawn), Doris Aurea (= James Wattie), Fanfare (= Featherhill Fanfare), Lunagrad (= Peter Dawson), Alvin Bryant (= Regal Solana), Peetie (= Invercargill), Winter Fair (= Solana Fair), Fred Stewart (= Via Costa), this has been bred on with Lunagrad to make Via Lunagrad, Thanksgiving (= Via Vista), and Earlyana (= Christmas Morn). Christmas Morn has been crossed with Carol Cox (= Pink Parade), Trigo Royale (= Crystal White), and Magpie (= Elsie Matsumoto).

Magpie is a most interesting parent. It has been used twenty four times, the most recent being 1989. It is listed in Sanders as "parents unknown". There must be a good pool of early genes available as it has been used predominantly with earlyies. Some of its hybrids are Byline (x Earlyana), Freds Fly (x Fed Stewart), Hells Bells (x Vesper Bells), and Moon Shadow

(x Doris Aurea). This last hybrid has been bred on with Earlyana to make Lucky Star.

It has been a most interesting exercise delving into the history of breeding for early *cymbidiums*. No doubt there are probably a few that I have missed and should have mentioned.

If I have to name three that have been the most influential, I would have to go back to the early crosses such as Early Bird, Stanley Fouraker and Fred Stewart. However, *cymbidium* breeding is always advancing and looking to improve so among the newer crosses I would have to put forward Trigo Royale, Winter Fair and perhaps Solana Beach.

## CAN YOU HELP?

Wanted a copy of "An Appreciation of N.Z. Native Orchids in Central Volcanic Plateau" by Max Gibbs. Printed I understand for the Taupo Native Orchid Society. If copies are available please contact E. J. Liddell, 15 Moore Avenue, Gonville, Wanganui with costs.



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Top: Enlarged single flower *Earina mucronata*

Bottom: *Dendrobium cunninghamii*



# ADVENTURE ON MY DOORSTEP

## Native Orchids on Lake Te Anau

The remote wilderness of Lake Te Anau's northern reaches reveals no evidence of human occupation. No roads, huts, tracks or power pylons to be seen, its a region of New Zealand where man merely passes through, by the grace of God or Nature alone. The excavated cave shelter of the transient Ngatimamoe on Lee Island is once again only a rock overhang, the endeavours of our explorers who rowed 66 km up the lake have left no mark but the Milford Track, and today's deerstalkers and track trampers leave no sign of their presence near the lake.

From the blue sky of a clear Easter day, to the mirror-calm depths of the lake, the only visual features are the bush-clad Franklin and Earl mountains. Drifting across the waters comes the sound of native birdsong and the overwhelming scent of *Earina autumnalis*. As the yacht *Manuska* dropped off her party of trampers for their trek over to Milford, skipper Murray Cardno and I turned for home, sailing once more through the veil of the *Earinas*. We wondered what other orchids were out there.

The next day I joined *Manuska's* daily 'discovery voyage'. Around Easter the cruise features the 'orchid special' — a trip to one of the islands in the lake. There has been no felling of native timber here, not even a school party to trample the moss. A barely discernable track

to the more accessible orchids is the only human touch.

I was intrigued to find all the *Earinas* and *Dendrobiums* on the rocks and rock faces or on the first 1.8m of the beech trees. There were none to be seen by binoculars further up the beech trees. We know their varied habitats of course include mossy rock banks but to live uniquely so seems unusual. Many are in dense concentrations covering several square metres. *E. mucronata* is less common than *E. autumnalis* and *D. cunninghamii* but again is no higher than chest-height from the ground.

We strayed from the 'discovery' track to discover new sites of orchids across the island. Again we located heavy concentrations of the three epiphytes, far more than I

have seen in the Borland, Catlins or Wainuiomata bush. We 'foot-stepped' the largest site and found it 40' by 50' of *D. cunninghamii* on about 8 cm of leaf litter on rock. Stomping through knee-deep moss for a short time we came across a specimen of *E. autumnalis* with stems 27" (or 29 leaves) long, three times the size of most others although the flowers were no stronger nor more prolific.

Brian Molloy comments that orchid habitats were extended by settlers felling and burning land, which when it regenerated to secondary growth hosted a multiplicity of orchids and other native plants. This suggests that orchids may form part of the early regenerative process, after the lichens and then mosses have reclaimed the land from either human intervention or from



natural upheavals such as the tree avalanches of Fiordland. This is the niche they appear to fill here, colonising comparatively wide areas of moss-clad rocks.

Yet, while the island supports trees almost to the maturity of the generative cycle, the *Earinas* and *Dendrobiums* have yet to migrate to their familiar hosts. It has been suggested to me that the larger trees are recent arrivals to the islands of Lake Te Anau, perhaps only appearing during the period of pakeha settlement. We may indeed be witnessing a specific stage of forest development here. Evidence for this theory is that the islands hold no big old rata trees or any of the ancient giants of the Fiordland 'mainland'; and that a pakeha-style bracken bed and campsite have been discovered in a nearby area of bush. If that site had been bushland then, he would probably have bedded down on crown fern, which suggests the bracken has been displaced by the bush only in the past 200 years.

What other species does this remote and untouched little sanctuary hold? With the Borland Lodge herbarium (among other flora) only 40 km away I shall be visiting again to investigate more

thoroughly. Thus far I will take three questions:-

- Why are these epiphytes not situated more than 1.8 m off the ground?
- Can a comparison be made between species on this undisturbed site and those contributing to secondary growth elsewhere in Fiordland?
- What other species will summer reveal?

The limestone running through the Murchison range, accounting for the Te Ana-au 'glow-worm' caves, may also draw me to investigate Molloy's\* observation that *Corybas macranthus* and *C. orbiculatus* appear to be the only orchid species to grow on limestone.

My full day trip illustrates how readily Murray and Frana Cardno will adapt their 'discovery' cruises to the interest of their passengers. They also operate overnight voyages where those who don't care to set up camp can sleep in the six berths on board. (One of the beauties of the island I visited is that with no running streams there are no sandflies.)

---

\* John Johns and Brian Molloy  
Native Orchids of New Zealand.

If you are visiting Otago or Fiordland next orchiding season, you may like to join me exploring the orchids of Lake Te Anau. ◀

Melanie McDonald  
Assistant Manager  
Te Anau YHA Hostel

SOUTHLAND TIMES  
28th March

## Award Presented

Murray Cardno, builder-owner-skipper of the well-known Te Anau tourist ketch *Manuska*, was awarded the Fiordland Promotion Association's Tourism Personality of the Year award at the Association's annual awards dinner last night.

Newly-elected Association President, Margaret Cockburn spoke of Mr Cardno's long association with, and love for Fiordland. ◀

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## Two Spring-Flowering Orchids

Spring-flowering orchids are numerous in number; the 'flush' of cymbidiums, dendrobiums, pleione, and masdevallia, represent just a few of the many plants which offer a regular spring show. What a difficult decision then to select two; finally the decision falls on a cymbidium and a perhaps lesser-known vanda.

*Cymbidium* Joyce Duncan 'Kersbrook' has proved a really worthwhile plant in my collection. This standard-sized cymbid.

never fails to produce a number of spikes, each with up to twelve flowers, well-presented on the arching spray. The flowers are lightly scented, which is always welcome in the orchid house, and last for many weeks. It produces a rewarding display, but does need space to show the blooms to advantage.

The second choice goes to a less showy orchid, *Vanda teres*. This species originates from Burma, Thailand and India, in the Himalayan foothills. There it is often found growing in

full sunlight, over the branches of large trees. In my orchid house, this plant grows in one of the more sunny positions. Even the very cold winters we have had in the last two years, haven't hindered its growth and production of flowers — on a relatively small plant. The flower buds take many weeks to develop, starting as tiny pointed buds on the opposite side of the stem from the cylindrical leaves. The long-lasting flowers which are produced in late spring, remain on the plant for over two months. ◀



*Vanda teres*

Grower/photographer: Ross Macdonald



*Cymbidium* Joyce Duncan 'Kersbrook'  
Grower/photographer: Ross Macdonald



# A Love of Orchids

**P**lants figured large in George Fuller's life from the beginning. His family had an orchard in Henderson, so growing things was a way of life, and there was an amazing neighbour called Fred Powell who was an exceptional nurseryman and orchid grower.

When the time came to choose a career, George had no hesitation in choosing horticulture and in the winter of 1945 he started at Palmers, now famous for their chain of garden centres but then a family nursery in Auckland. Six months later he was off to New Plymouth for an eighteen month stint with Duncan and Davies nursery, where so many of our best plants' people learnt their craft. During this time his interest in orchids, already strong thanks to Fred Powell's influence, reached new heights when he saw native species during tramping trips in the bush and got to know people who were growing cymbidiums. He also acquired an amazing book of Charles Darwin on the fertilization of orchids by insects which had him spellbound with its revelations. George soon decided that he was going to be an orchid grower, nothing else would do, so he sought advice from Fred Powell who said that he would need to go to England to have such a

career. A letter was sent immediately to the famous orchid firm of Sander's, who replied that there would be a job available if George could get there.

Getting there was the problem. He had no money, but the single minded lad was determined to find a way. Enquiries revealed that cargo ships returning to England were short of crew because men tired of the food rationing back home, were jumping ship in New Zealand. This led to his signing on as the lowliest deck boy with an old coal fired tramp steamer and setting off for England at 14 miles per hour, with five pounds in his pocket, having just celebrated his seventeenth birthday.

Sander's House of Orchids greeted him warmly when he finally arrived, being most impressed by the effort he made to get there. Some of the oldest staff members had been with Sander's all their working lives and they had George enthralled with their recollections of the incredible time around

the turn of the century when regular shiploads of orchids gathered from far off jungles arrived at the nursery.

George's enthusiasm and willingness to learn meant that he did well at Sander's, and he was sent to their Belgium branch for a time to further his skills. While there he learnt how to raise orchids from seed, a precise technique requiring laboratory conditions, and he took over this operation at the English nursery upon his return.

After a number of years at Sander's George was offered a job at a new glasshouse setup in Sweden where the first commercial hydroponics operation for growing vegetables was being set up. At first he turned down the job, as he was planning to return to New Zealand and see his parents. This resulted in the Swedish firm offering to pay for him to come out to New Zealand then return to their nursery. So George came home briefly, bringing with him his fiancée Doris, a co-worker

from Sander's, and they were married in Auckland.

George loved Sweden and enjoyed his job of looking after nutrition of the advanced nursery, but there were financial problems for the company and when after five years he was offered a position in Malta he accepted, readily.

The new job involved setting up a nursery to produce cuttings of chrysanthemums for an English nursery, taking advantage of the long sunlight hours in Malta to speed up the process.

The operation was started from scratch, and when George went to England for a course in Chrysanthemum propagation one of his tasks was to organise a ship to take essentials to the nursery site, including materials for a one million gallon reservoir (there is a great shortage of water on Malta) and 200 tons of peat (topsoil is extremely scarce there too).

It wasn't the easiest of operations to set up, or the easiest of countries to operate in but when George left to return to New Zealand four years later the ten acres under cover (polythene in winter and shadecloth in summer) were producing one million cuttings a week, all of which were shipped back to the parent company in England.

Back home for good George found it difficult to get employment in horticulture as anything but an unskilled gardener, so for a time he worked as a car assembler in Auckland. Then on a chance visit to New Plymouth he called on Fred Parker, famous for his garden and orchid collection, who announced that he was giving his orchids to the City Council on the condition they find someone competent to look after them. Are you interested? he enquired of George, and half an hour later, after a call to Parks Director John Goodwin, it was all settled.

So George and Doris and their children came to New Plymouth where George was made Curator of the Pukekura and Brooklands Parks a year later and spent 25 years in a job he relished, and which earned him the MBE for his devotion. He also received a Gold Medal at the 1990 World Orchid Conference for his achievements with the plants he still loves above all others.

Recently retired, George spends a great deal of time with orchids, especially the striking South African *disas*, which he has been breeding with great success, and *Masdevallias*.

As George headed off to find an orchid painting near the end of our interview, I commented to

Doris that he couldn't be quite as crazy about orchids as when he was a teenager. But she assured me that he's worse, "he probably dreams about them." At that moment George returned, and added that when regaining consciousness after an operation recently, suffering hallucinations from the anaesthetic, he dreamt of potting orchids and their roots turning into serpents. ◀

Julian Matthews  
Reprinted from: "The New Zealand Gardener"  
April, 1992

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*continued from page 26*

The orchid roots seem to be more efficient when adhering to a solid surface. If plants in pots show a tendency to get most of their roots outside the pot think about repotting into baskets. At all times listen to what the plant is saying, through its roots.

Growing plants is a satisfying link between man and nature. Those who do it best are observant and seek out the sign language of their plants, making the effort to supply their needs.

Have you talked to your plants today? ◀

Reprinted from  
Rotorua Orchid Society  
Newsletter June 1991

## USEFUL ORCHIDS

We all think of orchids as plants with beautiful flowers, however orchids have been utilised in many ways by various people through the ages.

The early Greeks gave the name *orchis* (literally testicle) to the plants because of the resemblance of the twin tubers to human testicles. Physicians then believed that plants which resembled human organs were appropriate plant drugs for treating ailments of these organs hence orchids received the reputation for fertility regulation, usually in the form of aphrodisiacs. This reputation persisted into the early 20th century. The American Indians used, and some of the remedies were adopted, by the European immigrants, such species as *Cypripedium* as a sedative, *Goodyera pubescens* for a variety of diseases including cancer and *Epactis helleborine* was brought from Europe to treat gout. *Arpophyllum* was used in Mexico to treat dysentery, *Cytopodium* prescribed for diseases of the skin and lungs in Cuba and as a purgative in Brazil.

*Catasetum fimbriatum* and *Rodriguezia* have been used in South America by women to regulate fertility. *Dendrobium crumenatum* has served throughout

Malaysia to treat earaches, infections, nervous diseases and cholera. Pseudobulbs of *Phaius tankervilleae* were used in Java as a poultice for abscesses and from Africa local medicinal use has been reported of an infusion of the stems of *Ansellia gigantea* used as an emetic and to relieve coughs, and a juice from the stem heated to relieve earache.

The seeds of *Cymbidium madidum* were used by Aboriginal women to prepare an oral contraceptive and stems were chewed to relieve dysentery. In Fiji *Dendrobium tokai* was part of a mixture taken as an oral contraceptive. Salep is the name given to the pulverised tubers of many orchid species, long known in Asia where it was regarded as an aphrodisiac, tonic and restorative. Today its sole purpose in medicine is as a demulcent in infant diarrhoea.

There are doubtless many more recorded uses of orchids in medicine. Maybe if our New Zealand health care gets too expensive we could revert

to them. A doctor once told me the best cure for a cold was castor oil. He said if you took enough of it you were too scared to cough.

Recorded food uses include: From the diet of Australian aborigines, tubers from terrestrial species of *Caldena*, *Cryptostylis*, *Diuris*, *Thelymitra*, *Pterostylis* and allied species. Roasted tubers of *Gastrodia* were called native potatoes by the early European settlers. Ethnic people of Africa, America, New Mexico, Japan, China, Korea, India and Vietnam also ate orchid tubers in times of need. *Vanilla* seems to be the only orchid product currently used for flavouring although *Dendrobium salaccense* has been used to flavour rice in Indonesia and *Leptotes bicolor* has also served as a flavouring for ice cream. *Jumellea fragrans* leaves and stems were used as a tea in Mauritius.

Miscellaneous uses of orchids included:

Java—Split stems of *Coelogyne asperata* served as blackboard cleaners.





*Leptotes bicolor*

Laos—Tubers of *Calanthe* lubricated the comb of the loom.

New Guinea—Food for cooking wrapped in *Acanthephippium* leaves.

Central America—Trumpets made from hollow dried pseudobulbs of *Schomburgkia tibicinis*.

Cayman Islands—Pipes

shaped from pseudobulbs of *Schomburgkia thomsoniana*.

Mexico—Substitute for hallucinogenic peyote from *Oncidium cebolleta*.

India—Stems of *Dendrobium* fed to cows to increase milk production, and *Cymbidium* pseudobulbs fed to cattle.

Papua New Guinea—

Whole plants of *Spathoglottis* fed to pigs.

American Indians — valued *Cypripedium acaule* as a love charm.

Southern Africans—Used *Habenaria* dives as a death charm. ◀

Reprinted from  
Rotorua Orchid Society  
Newsletter May 1991

## AMATEURS VIEW OF PHOTOGRAPHY

You may take the best photo in the world, but it is a known fact that there is a great variety of colours from different films and processing.

### BACKGROUND:

It is important to match the colour of the flower with the background. An uncluttered background is always best and if necessary take it away from the shadehouse to photograph against a neutral background or use a black cloth or another suggestion is a pale blue cloth pinned on softboard.

### ASA:

Relates to the speed of the film. 100 ASA is normal but for indoors 400 ASA has proved to be best using natural light. This film is too fast for flash which requires 100 ASA.

### MOVEMENT:

Ensure the camera is fitted on a tripod, using a shutter cable to eliminate camera shake.

### FOCUS:

The centre of the flower is the best place to focus on.

### CLOSE UP:

Lenses are available but sometimes it is found that the flower is too close and too big to fit in the viewfinder. A 2x lense is satisfactory in most cases. Most cameras will go as close as 0.5 metre which is close enough.

### FLASH:

Not really necessary if you use a 400 ASA. Bounce the flash from a reflector rather than direct. Some cameras have build-in flashes which set their

own exposure. Do not have the flower too close to the background or shadows will result.

### SINGLE LENSE REFLEX CAMERAS:

Ideal because you can see exactly what you are photographing.

### COLOUR SLIDES:

Or colour prints—either is acceptable because prints can be taken off slides.

These are a few simple hints that may help or hinder you but always remember that a photo is taken for your own records, pleasure and memories. ◀

Reprinted from  
Whangarei Orchid Society  
Newsletter April 1986

# ARE WE GETTING THE BEST OUT OF OUR PAPHs?

by Barry Fraser

**A**LTHOUGH given a wide ranging subject title which could cover breeding lines, show presentation, flower initiation and so on, I will talk about basic culture methods used by well known growers and those used by myself at Papa Aroha Orchids. In doing so I will lay to rest some of the old ideas and bring out more recent methods in the culture of *paphiopedilum* orchids.

Probably the best culture I have seen is at The Orchid Zone in San Francisco, run by Terry Root. His nursery has a totally controlled environment with every aspect of growing controlled to get the very best results. He has his own laboratory and uses his own medium for producing seedlings, for the very important sound start to plant initiation and growing. The first lesson in good *paph* culture is to purchase seedlings from nurseries with a good reputation for strongly growing seedlings. Those poorly established will set the grower back into a situation of slow recovery at best. Once growing momentum is lost it is very difficult to recover.

Given good strong seedlings, they have to be taken out of flask when they have good growing root tips, and grow them in a medium that they will best respond. The Orchid Zone expect to flower the

first seedlings about 12 months out of flask, and have a bulk flowering after 18 months. This contrasts with the old accepted idea of flowering 3-4 years out of flask. Of course this is using a high level of technology to have everything controlled to optimum.

A fine mix is favoured to deflask into, and The Orchid Zone use a mix of fine bark, scoria, Oasis, and polystyrene beads. This is free draining but at the same time hold sufficient moisture evenly and it is relatively stable. Humidity is finely controlled and a watering regime is carried out with military precision every eight days throughout the year, regardless of external conditions. Watering and feeding is heavy.

Growth rate is prodigious. Deflasked seedlings are planted out into trays and placed under lights. After 3 months potting on into 2 inch tubes

takes place followed after a further 3 months with a move on into 3 inch pots, then 3 months later into 4 inch pots where they are expected to flower. Selection of the best growing plants is always rigorous and culls are disposed of so that only the best is bred on for vigour of growth as well as quality of flower.

Emphasis is on heavy feeding, that is regularly after every watering, year round at *cymbidium* strength proportions. Heavy feeding to get results. You do not get All Blacks by feeding them wheat germ, they require solid meals. Whatever you are growing, you will not get maximum results if you do not feed to capacity. This therefore is the second lesson in growing *paphiopedilums*. The third is a need to have them growing in a medium to enable you to feed them.

In my own growing situation I personally believe bark is a poor





*Paphiopedilum fairrieianum*  
Grower: Roger Cooper



*Paphiopedilum delanatii*  
Grower: Joyce Askin

medium to use for *paphs*. I started off growing in straight bark and played around with various parameters of sizes, feeding and watering routines and found I was just muddling through. My results were fairly ordinary and I began to think that if I could not do better I should give up. I was losing far too many plants, and growth rate was unsatisfactory. Then after discussion with other growers I made a switch to punga fern.

At first I tried a number of systems to try and work out the best, and trials on seedling plants were made with various mixes such as fine bark with fern fibre thoroughly mixed, another with bark at bottom for drainage and fern fibre for the top two thirds of the pot, another where I mixed scoria with fern fibre. A number of different combination of mixes were tried. At this stage I have settled on a mixture of punga and scoria, both sieved to be dust free, in the ratio of 5:1. If the fine dust is left in the punga then there is a risk that over watering will result in a check in root growth. I came to the conclusion that the fine dust has a tendency to seal up the ends of roots and stop them growing. Top growth often appears good under these circumstances but an inspection of roots often

reveals short stumpy growth.

*Paphiopedilum* orchids appear to be lazy growing plants. They do not need to have a big root system to get sufficient nutrients or moisture because the punga being fine retains moisture much better than bark does. It is better to aim for a good root system for optimum results so I sieve out the fines from punga before use and now get good root and top growth. If you decide to make a change, proceed with caution to test out your own growing conditions. Everyone's conditions differ and you need to seek out what is best for your situation.

It is suggested that a fine mix using punga will give good results. My own experience is that I have halved the growing time to flowering, and the quality of flowering is better.

The fourth growing lesson is that quite high light levels are required, exploding another myth. Particularly if growing plants closely you can afford to have high light, but with plenty of fresh air. I have association with a number of commercial growers of standard *paphs* for cut flowers. Many of these have large collections of plants and being in business they need to ensure best possible growth

and flowering with good stem length. Stem length has in the past been linked with light levels. Low for long stems and high for short. Over the past two or three years we have trialed different feeding systems and feed concentrations to prove that good stem length comes from optimum nutrition rather than a light factor. It was found that it was the amount of nitrogen that was available to the plant at the time of spike initiation that was the key factor. Too much nitrogen at this stage put the emphasis on vegetative growth rather than flower production and stem length. A change was made from a year round feeding regime to one that stopped feeding totally during the months of January and February with outstanding good results. ◀

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## Communicating with your Cattleyas

**C**ATTLEYAS are epiphytic plants, often perched high up in the air seeking light, they use their root systems to collect moisture and store it in the pseudobulbs for sustenance in times of drought. When we remove these plants from their environment and stuff their roots into a pot we must provide a stable environment with adequate water and minerals. The roots are still aerial roots requiring a steady supply of air. Oxygen is a waste product of photosynthesis. The plant takes in carbon dioxide from the air and gives off oxygen. The orchids need your by product and we need theirs.

Overwatering is not too much water; it is too little air. When the potting mix retains too much water that does not drain or become absorbed by the roots it fills up all the spaces in the mix and prevents the roots breathing properly. Size of the potting container is important. The larger the pot the less frequently water is required, simply because it can hold more water not necessarily because the plant uses less. Roots are apt to rot because the plant probably does not have enough roots to utilize the excess water and the roots drown.

When new growths begin to develop and roots are noticeably active, increase watering and feeding. When growths are fully formed and flower sheaths have formed, decrease watering a little, decrease the nitrogen in your fertilizer and increase phosphate and potassium levels to strengthen roots and flowers. This is not always simple as many

*Cattleya* collections contain hybrids which have variable flowering seasons.

As you get to know your plants you can group them into flowering sections. You can use the pseudobulbs as indicators of health. In seedling development you can generally expect a size increase as each bulb develops. If such development is not evident it is usually a sign that all is not well in the root department. If the front bulb is shrivelled or ridged the roots will be either too wet or too dry.

If the plant has been excessively dry the leaves will become soft and wrinkled. Remove some of the top bark and look for signs of white mould which tends to cover the bark particles, preventing moisture adhering to the bark. Remove the plant, expose the roots to air and light for a day and then repot. If the front bulb is shrivelled and the roots soft

and mossy green, chances are the majority of the roots are rotten. Pot into a new mix using a smaller pot, keep on the dry side, misting occasionally to stimulate the dormant growth eyes and root development. Wait until the pot is full of roots then pot on into a container big enough for another year's growth.

Observe root growth always. If the green tips are in active growth but not longer than 1 centimetre try more humidity a little more heat and maybe a little more light. If the new root has thick and thin segments your cultivation is not consistent. Try more moisture in the atmosphere and less in the pot. If the green tip of the root stops growing when it touches the top of the compost it is probable the compost is too acid. If the growing roots show an inclination to adhere to the side of the pot, if it is not too inconvenient encourage it.

*continued on page 24*

## A note on the use of urea as a liquid feed for orchids in bark

Urea is an excellent and economical nitrogen fertiliser for use in soil, and soil containing mixes, but its value as a liquid feed for orchids growing in fresh bark mixes is more limited. I use the term fresh bark to distinguish what we orchidists use from the pulverised and composted bark media used as an alternative to peat media. In soil, and indeed in bark, the urea is rapidly turned to ammonium by the enzyme urease, which is widely present in micro organisms including those which break down bark giving it the recognised high N requirement. In soil other micro organisms carry out the process of nitrification, converting the ammonium to nitrate, but these are not present in fresh bark, although by the time you are needing to repot, some may have drifted in.

Thus in fresh bark, urea supplies ammonium, but little or no nitrate. Most plants roots, and I assume this would include orchids, prefer to take up nitrate, as when an ammonium ion is taken up, the root excretes a hydrogen ion, and when this occurs many times very acid conditions are created at the root surface, which is generally unsatisfactory.

So, if urea is supplied as the only N source, whilst the micro organisms breaking down the bark get the N they need, the orchids may get very little. Furthermore, the high concentration of ammonium ions in the solution on the bark will ultimately tend to displace other cations, ie Calcium, Potassium, Magnesium

Iron, etc, from the bark, so that they wash out of the pot and are lost to the orchids.

You will see that the proportions you apply, and what the orchids get, may be very different. A general recommendation I have seen in *Orchid Seedling Care*, by Bob Gordon, is that the ratio of nitrate to ammonium in orchid liquid feeds should not fall below 3:1 in low light conditions, although 2:1 is said to be satisfactory in summer. That author suggests that urea N in orchid feeds should be ignored in assessing the N content of the feed. However, I suggest that urea N should be considered as ammonium when used in fresh bark mixes.

I bring these points to your attention as I note that one general garden liquid feed available contains 27% N, of which 21% is stated to be urea. Whilst I see no reason why it should not be excellent for garden use, I would have reservations about its repeated use on fresh bark mixes. I mean no criticism of this preparation, as the manufacturers state the urea content, which the law does not require them to do, but which is important to orchid growers using bark. It might be necessary to check with manufacturers of other products the proportions of nitrate, ammonium and urea in their preparations. ◀

D. E. S. Wood B.Sc.(Hons) PhD  
Manawatu Orchid Society



## "WAIRARAPA NEWS"

The **Wairarapa Orchid Circle** held its Annual Show in the McGregor Hall, Masterton over Saturday and Sunday of Labour Weekend in the usual weather conditions associated with that particular weekend. However, the inside of the hall was a riot of eye catching orchids with the combined colourful displays of both growers and our commercial visitors.

We are always amazed and delighted at the numerous plants that do arrive in such perfect condition even allowing for those that seem to finish

'just before' or open 'just after' as we all know. There was a very warm happy atmosphere in the hall all weekend with the general public being very responsive by asking questions and more than a few plants finding new homes.

We hope they will follow up by becoming members and learning how to care for their new interest. The commercial growers Syd Wray, Norm and Dot Porter, John Scott and Trevor Nicholl provided us all with interesting and tempting "goodies" and many plastic bags were popped into corners to be added to from time to time.

The pre-show cries of "no room" seemed to be forgotten in the joy of finding just one more little treasure to try. John Scott provided us with more than plants with his story of losing the Manawatu Gorge and finding the Saddle Road to Woodville instead! At least he now knows there is something below the Bombay Hills.

A very enjoyable pot luck tea was held on the Saturday night with the usual fare to make anyone forget their diet. Four trophies were awarded during the Show to the following members:

*Paphiopedilum Hirsutissimum* to I. and M. Williams.



Wairarapa Show — October 1992  
Photo: Mrs J. Robinson

*Cattleya* Alliance — Mem. Dorothy Worden to O. & A. Henson.

*Cymbidium* — (Doris Aurea 'Cardinal' x *dev.* Hot Chocolate) to N. Mooney.

*Dendrobium* — (Barnard x *speciosum*) to Mavis Ross.

None of this is possible without the co-operation of all the members and the committee headed by our able president Mavis Ross. I for one would not miss the organised chaos and good humour associated with the setting up and pulling down of the Show.

The pleasure in welcoming orchid people (they are rather special aren't they) from Kapiti and Dannevirke and the good company of our billets Norm and Dot all made it a well worthwhile weekend. ◀

## Non-growers welcome into Orchid Society

The Dargaville and Districts Orchid Society

was formed last night. (29th September 1992).

Convened by Mrs Colleen Heuvel, the well attended public meeting was addressed by a grower from Whangarei Mr Syd Wray, of the New Zealand Orchid Council who is very involved in the development of *Dendrobium* orchids.

The subscription was set at \$10 per person or \$12 a couple and the next meeting will be on Tuesday October 27th at 7.30 pm in the Old Folks Rooms.

“Non-growers are welcome,” said Mrs Heuvel, adding that the aims of the club are social as well as educational. There will be opportunities for people to learn about the culture of various types of orchids, how they are named and the techniques for repotting.

For the first six months the Society will operate under a working committee and then meet to discuss the formal acceptance of this branch by the New Zealand Orchid Council.

The following committee was elected:

President. Colleen Heuvel; Secretary, Cathy Howarth; Treasurer, Joy Wedgwood; Committee: Betty Mason, Alan Morgan and Mrs Van Der Velden. ◀

## “Letter to the Editor”

Sir,

Other readers may have been as puzzled as I was by the statement (p.191 top para) that the genus *phaius* gets its name from the Greek adjective *oaios*, and wondered how ‘o’ turns into ‘ph’. The truth is of course that someone misread the Greek letter ‘phi’ (φ) as an ‘o’; the Greek adjective is *phaios*, so there is no problem as to how the genus came to get its name.

Yours sincerely

Patrick Lacey

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## BADGERS AT COFFS

by Heather Crowsley

THREE hopeful collectors arrived in Sydney enroute to Coffs Harbour with very heavy hand luggage. It was the first time our orchid badge collection had been out of New Zealand. The badges were stacked on twelve hinged trays inside an aluminium camera case which travelled in the overhead locker above my husband's head. Both arrived unscathed at Sydney airport.



Sunday, our first full day so off we went collection and swaps in tow, heading for the museum underground railway station. This proved to be our lucky day for we were presented with free passes, compliments of Aussie Rail. The show was a small but well organised one with some very fine plants displayed and the fragrance could be detected outside the hall. Wonderful! Some important badge transactions were carried out during the excellent and cheap morning tea of yummy home-baked delights (the entire work of one very talented woman for the duration of their show). A most satisfying day.

Monday, according to advance Aussie publicity, was show day for the Paramatta and District so off we went again, together with our new friends from Kapiti Orchid Society Inc., heading to the venue through the huge and inviting shopping complex a sign was spied informing us the show was in fact still two days away! The shortcomings of the publicity committee were discussed briefly before we made use of our free time in the shops. No badge business today!

Making the most of our free pass we travelled over the Harbour Bridge to the North Side then hailed a

cab to take us back through the new 2.7 km harbour tunnel which had opened the Saturday before. A second opportunity came the following morning at the beginning of our 9½ hours Greyhound bus journey to Coffs.

Three weary, morning and afternoon tea-less badgers finally arrived at our very comfortable quarters in the late afternoon. Immediately we learn of the badgers dinner set down for 7 pm across the road at the local RSL club. We perk ourselves up and arrive. Effortlessly old and new friends spend the evening happily catching up on the 'latest issues', information, who will be where and when and most importantly fixing times to view the swap badges. After the dinner several members would be returning to their jobs some 400 kilometres away and unable to return until the weekend. We were to give priority swapping opportunities to these unfortunate fellas. Dominant at the badge corner and imaginatively displayed were two collections the property of the two unfortunate fellas.

A good number of large collections were to be seen during the conference essentially to help confirm last minute badge oddities etc. before sending our very first international

orchid badge club's catalogue to the printers. An onerous task but satisfaction imminent I'm sure. It's always interesting to see how fellow badgers have tackled the task of mounting their collections, making them easily transportable, as lightweight as possible and importantly viewable to all and sundry without compromising the security of the collections. We deemed Coffs a huge success pushing our collection past 700 and making our hand luggage for Scotland just that little bit heavier!

P.S. We enjoyed the rest of the show too.

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## November Executive Committee Meeting

A meeting of the Executive Committee was held in Auckland on Sunday 1st November 1992 and the following is a summary of the items discussed.

### VIDEO COMPETITION

A reminder is given to society members that the Video Competition entries close with Aileen Feist, 25 Seddon Street, Te Puke on **31st January 1993**.

Application forms have been sent to all societies.

This competition is being organised to stimulate interest in societies and provide material for a New Zealand based video film.

**PRIZE:** A mystery weekend for two within New Zealand by one of the National Airlines. The winner will be announced in March 1993.

*Note: In my haste to get the December magazine out, I overlooked including the notice concerning the video competition. My apologies to all concerned.*  
Editor

### SPEAKER'S FUND

Clive Halls from Australia has agreed to speak to societies around July/August 1993. An

itinerary is being prepared for him to visit societies in the Central Region. Clive has spoken to several societies on previous trips to New Zealand.

He is an excellent speaker and his talks are of interest to beginners as well as to the more experienced grower.

The North Shore Orchid Society is sponsoring Clive Ossian from the United States of America to talk at their 20th Anniversary Show in September 1993. With the assistance of a grant from the Speaker's Fund this speaker will talk to other societies around New Zealand.

In addition the North Shore Orchid Society is bringing a top Australian *Sarcochilus* breeder to New Zealand and it is hoped he/she will be available to talk to societies within a short radius of Auckland.

### JOB DESCRIPTION MANUAL

The Council is now putting the final touches to a Job Description Manual,

which will be distributed to all societies early in the new year. This publication will contain resource material that can be used, or modified, by societies.

We believe that the Job Description will help new secretaries etc understand what the job entails before accepting the position. Many society members are reluctant to take on a position because they do not know what is required. Hopefully, this publication will encourage more members to participate and enjoy society activities.

It was disappointing to hear that the New Zealand Orchid Society have discontinued with the magazine as part of their subscription. However, it is hoped that we will be able to encourage individual members to take out subscriptions.

The North Shore Society was taking a vote on the day of the Executive Committee meeting as to whether they should continue to include Orchids in New Zealand in their subscription.

**NOTE:** It is understood that the North Shore members voted to retain the magazine in their Society's subscription. (Very good news for the future of Orchids in New Zealand.)

This means that donations to the Colour Fund for the magazine are now tax deductible. A full report on the Charitable Status of O.C.N.Z. will appear in a future issue of Orchids in New Zealand.

## WINNER OF SOCIETY QUIZ

The response was very disappointing in that only 14 of the 41 societies bothered to reply to the simply question posed in the last E.C. report.

## CONZED

Societies are reminded that CONZED no longer exists — Our official name is now **ORCHID COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND INC.** All references to CONZED should be deleted.

## CHARITABLE STATUS

The Orchid Council of New Zealand Inc. has been granted Charitable Status. The Income Tax Act 1976 provides for a rebate from Income Tax purposes on donations of \$5.00 or more made by an individual taxpayer to the Organisation.

## INCORPORATED SOCIETIES

A reminder is given that all Incorporated Societies need to send a copy of their Annual Balance Sheet to the Registrar each year. This is a legal requirement.

## JUDGING

It has been agreed that the Nelson and Dunedin Judging Groups will be made Supplemental Regions as from 1 February 1993. Two Sub-National Seminars will be held in 1993, one in the North of the South Island and the other in Auckland.

However, we are pleased to announce that the Stratford Society was drawn the winner and this club will receive orchid plants to the value of \$50 kindly donated by Anne Marie Orchids. Perhaps this proves the point that not all societies read their correspondence.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held in Bulls on Saturday 13th February 1993. ◀

H. Bayram  
Publicity Officer

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 1993

DATE	SOCIETY	VENUE, ADDRESS
April 3/4	<b>BAY OF PLENTY</b>	Te Puke Memorial Hall, Jellicoe Street, Te Puke
Aug 27	<b>WARKWORTH</b>	Warkworth Town Hall
Sept 4/5	<b>HOWICK</b>	All Saints Church Hall, Cook Street, HOWICK
Sept 10/11	<b>2nd SOUTH ISLAND</b>	Cames Cumming Wing, Ardwick Street, GORE
Sept 25/26	<b>TAUPO</b>	
Oct 1/3	<b>TARANAKI</b>	St Joseph's Hall, Devon St West, NEW PLYMOUTH

All societies are offered the free listing of their current year's show dates.

Please ensure accurate and full information is forwarded if this listing is to be of maximum use.

Details must be received by the Editor as follows to guarantee inclusion in the issue noted:-

ISSUE	REQUIRED BY	ISSUE	REQUIRED BY
March/April	1 February	Sept/October	1 August
May/June	1 April	November/December	1 October
July/August	1 June		

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## *Something Different*



### ***Epidendrum difforme***

This interesting species, grown by Jeff and Margaret Anderson of Wellington is not commonly grown, at least in the Wellington region, despite the fact that it is naturally widely distributed through Florida, Mexico, Central America, the West Indies, and northern South America. Often described as highly variable, it has recently been suggested that it comprises a complex of some 100 different species. It has been known to European growers since it was described by N. J. Jacquin in 1790. Flowering mostly in the autumn, but also throughout the year, the often fragrant flowers are approximately 30 mm across.